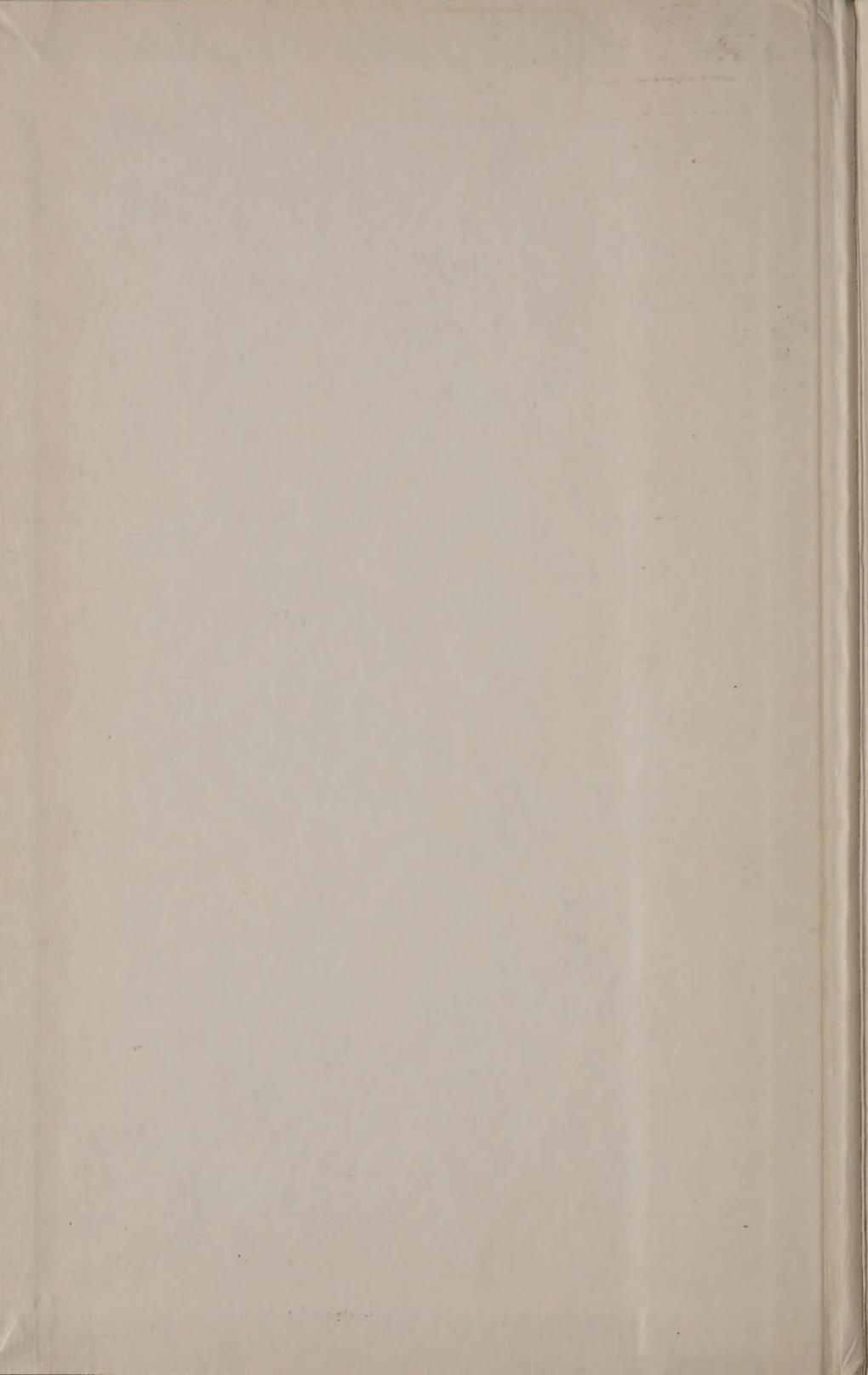


**HOLMES COUNTY, OHIO**  
**Flashes From The Past**

**DONALD EGGER**

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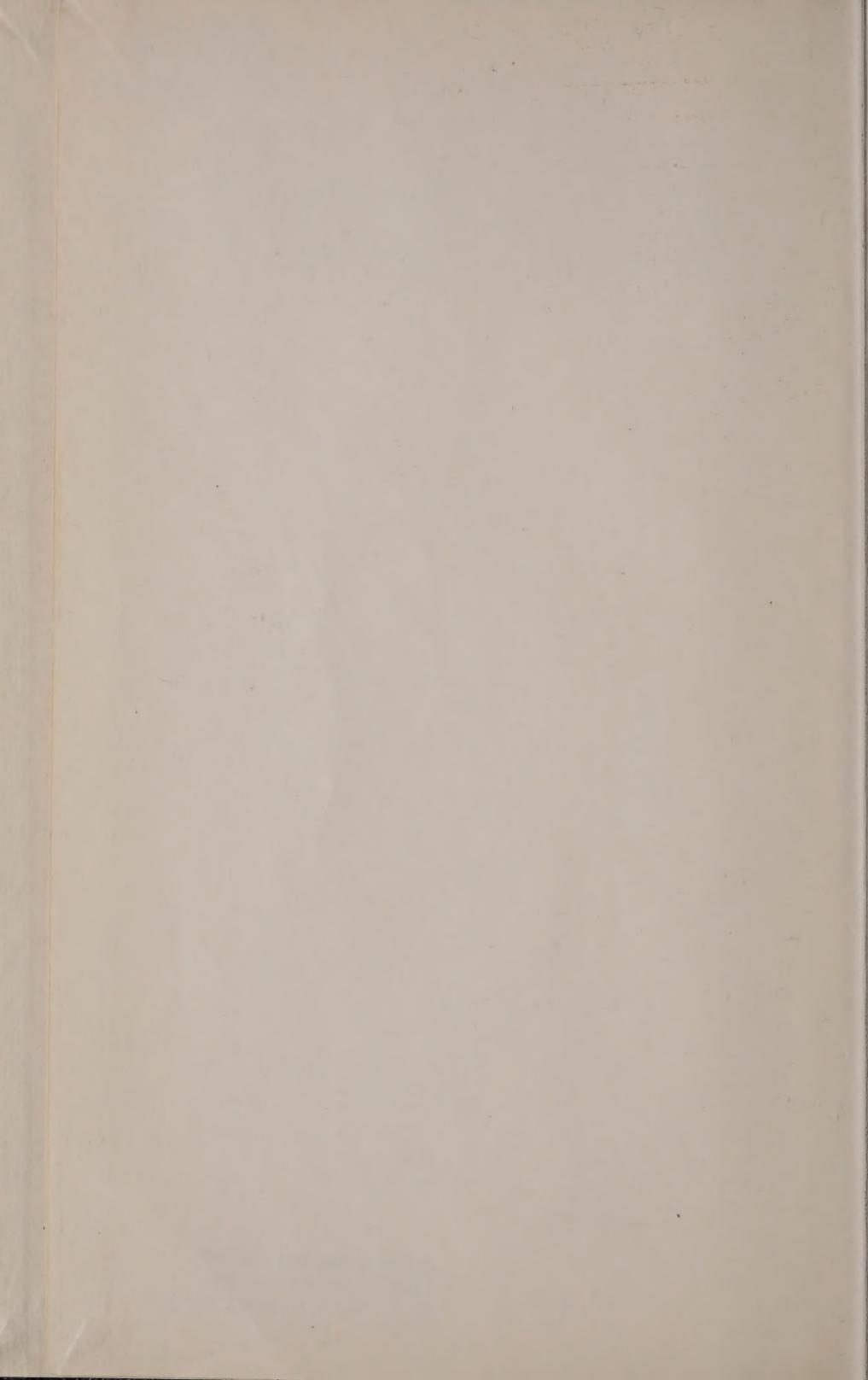
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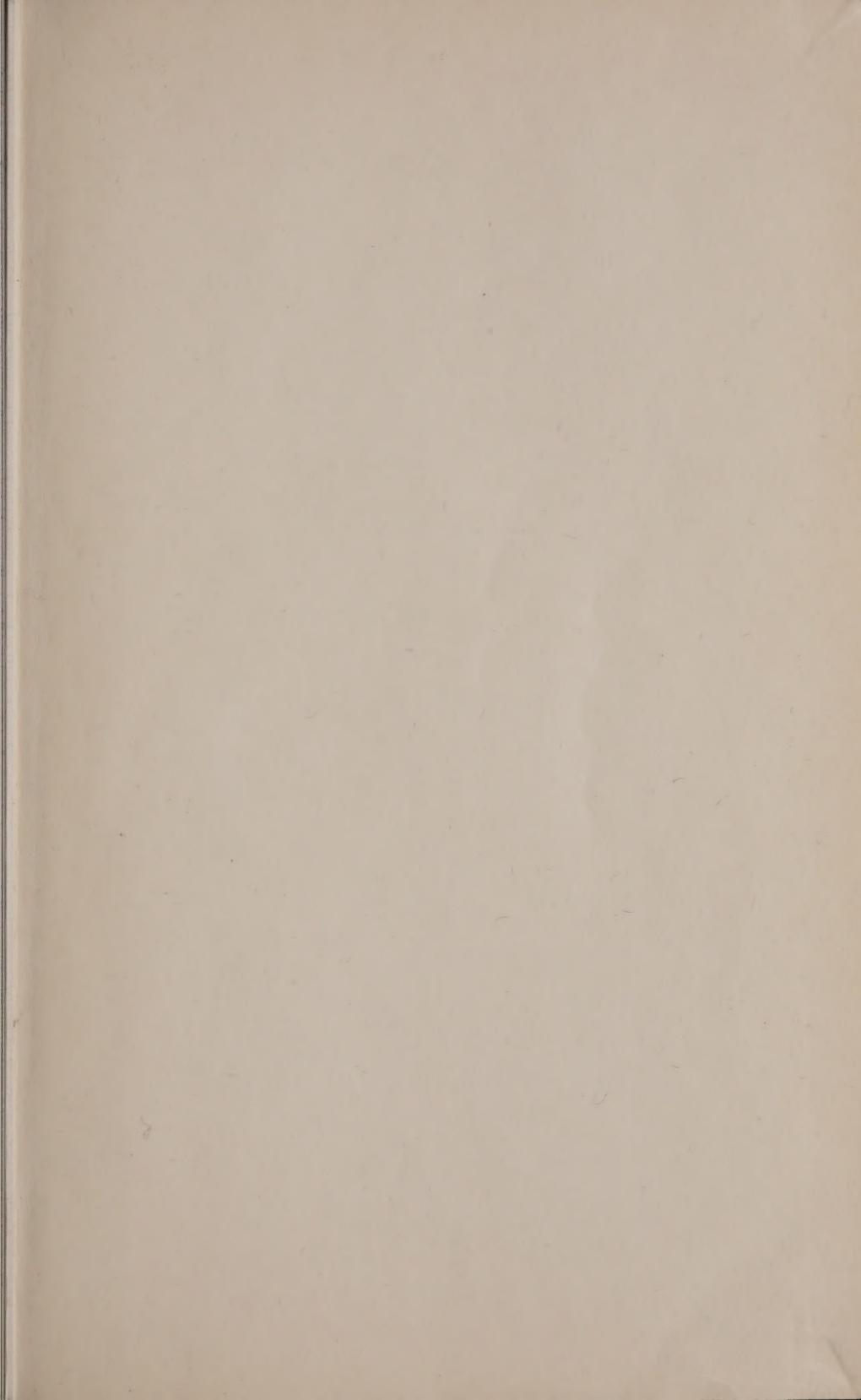
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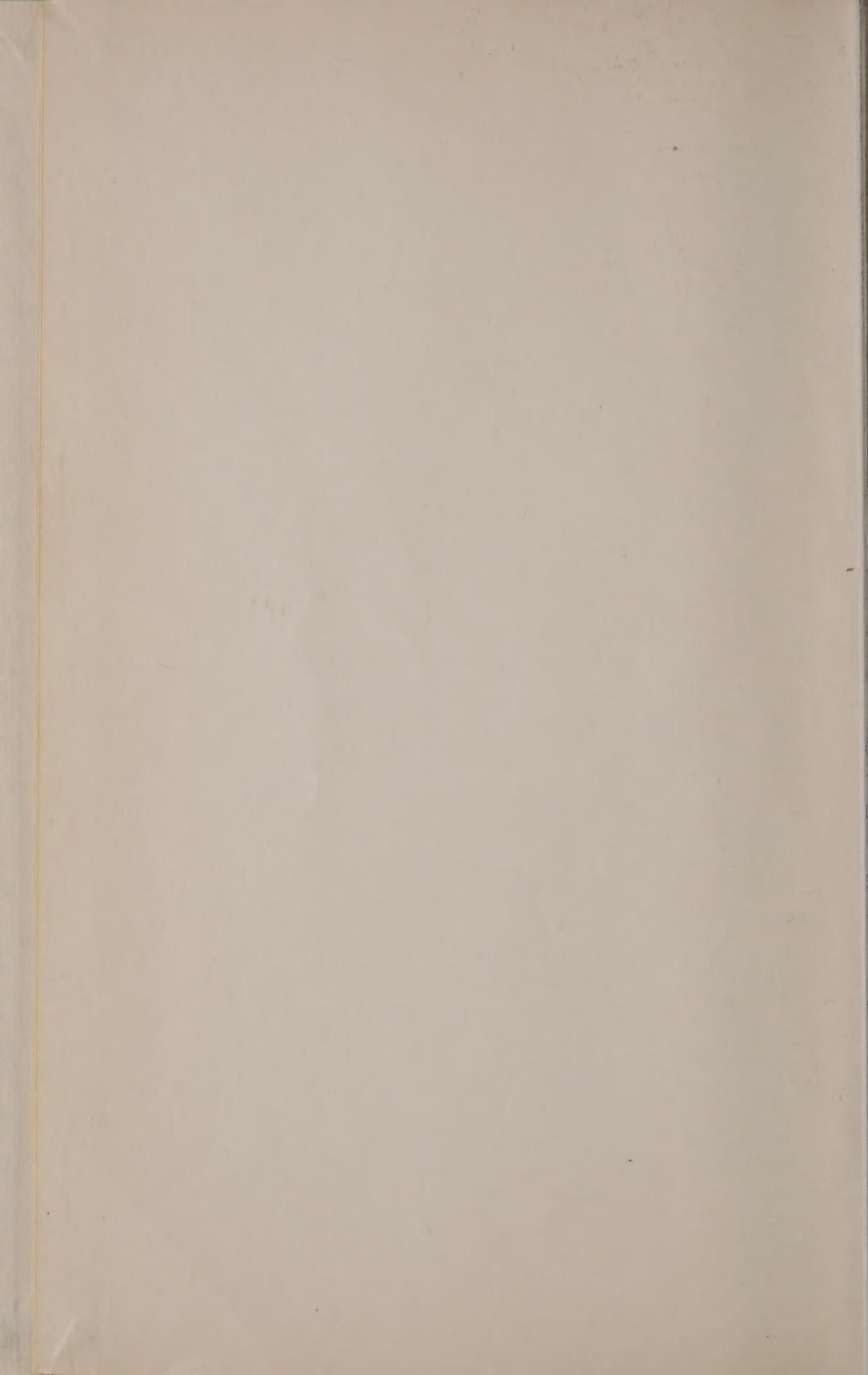
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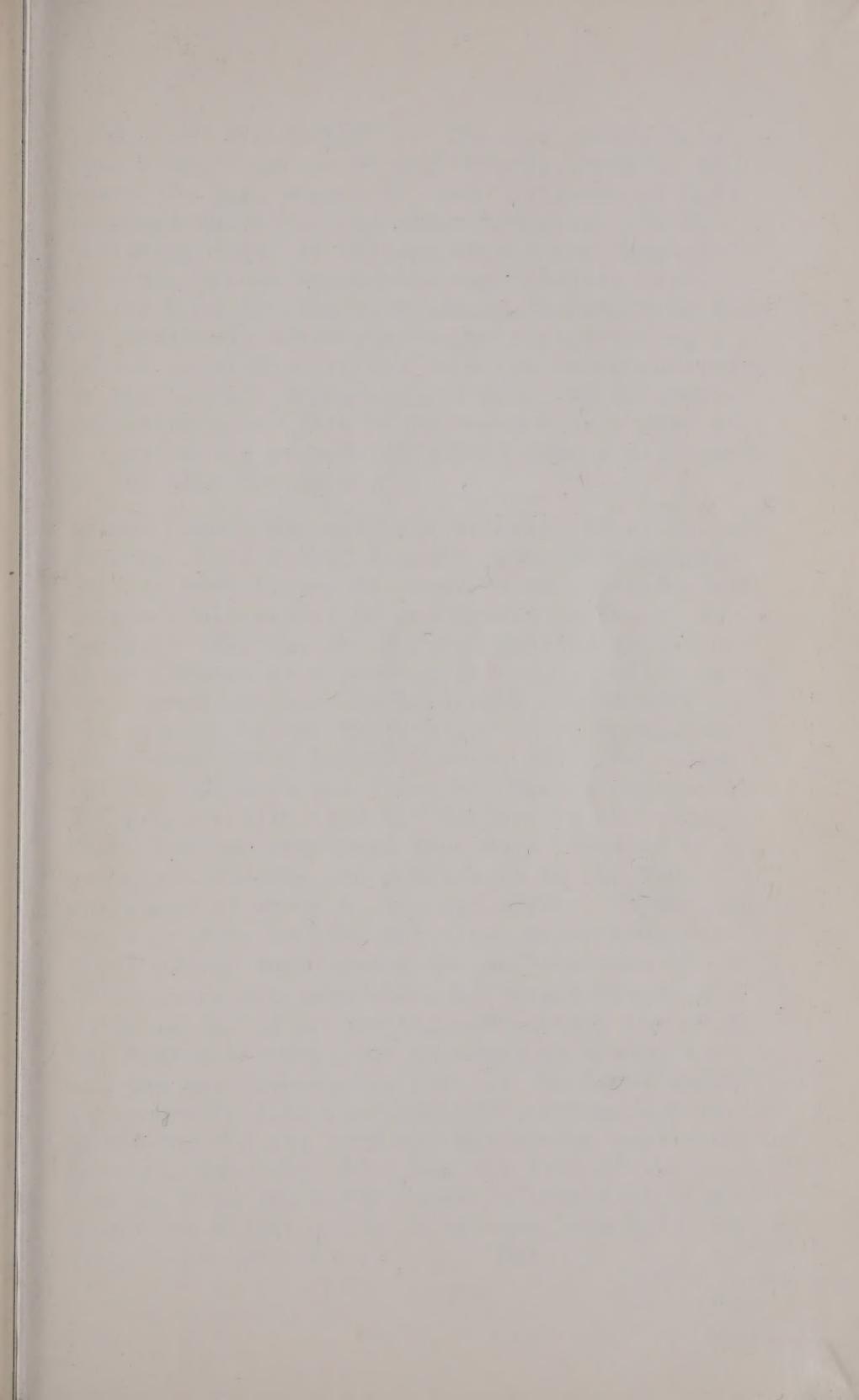
HOLMES COUNTY, OHIO: FLASHES  
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FIRE . . . IN MILLERSBURG . . . Oh, not today, it's quite a while ago . . . Sunday May 11, 1834 to be exact. We just wonder how many citizens of Millersburg who have read about the great and devastating fires in Chicago many years ago, and in other places around the map, realize that Millersburg too, was once almost destroyed by fire. For those who would read about this exciting bit of our local history, the book now being published by the Library Archives will prove an interesting experience. This story appears as a part of the extensive records of Holmes County as recorded by the late Don Egger.

Holmes County has not been without its historians even in the somewhat distant past. Mr. Egger, himself an able historian, reviews at considerable length a history of Holmes County written by George F. Newton, which was scheduled to be read by Mr. Newton at a giant gathering in Millersburg to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, which would have been July 4th, 1876. For some reason, which is not clear Mr. Newton apparently did not actually read his history on that occasion, but was requested four days later by a group of citizens, to publish it in the local newspaper of which he was the editor. Whether this was ever done is also not clear since many editions of the local paper dating back into the 1870's, are not available, Mr. Egger has done a splendid job of preserving and editing the original Newton history, and it makes up a most interesting and informative part of the Egger manuscript. It occurs to this reviewer that perhaps one reason Mr. Newton did not read his history in public on that historic July 4th, 1876, was the fact of its consider length. Even the hardy souls of that time might have found it difficult to listen intently to so lengthy a discourse. How-

ever in its printed form, it makes a most fascinating story of how Holmes County, a typical mid-western frontier area, was settled and developed.

Have any of you ever wondered about the man for whom Holmes County was named? Mr. Egger included in his memorabilia, a most interesting letter from the archives department of the state of Mississippi to the late Wayne Stilwell of Millersburg, regarding the young officer for whom our county is named. Mr. Stilwell was also much interested in the history of our area, and it is most fitting that this bit of his correspondence should appear in the book.

These are just a few of the interesting bits and pieces which will reward the reader of this latest publication of the Library Archives of Holmes County.

F.W. Almendinger

(Board Chairman of Library Archives  
1963)

HOLMES COUNTY, OHIO :

FLASHES FROM THE PAST

Donald Egger



Published by  
Library Archives of Holmes County, Ohio

1963

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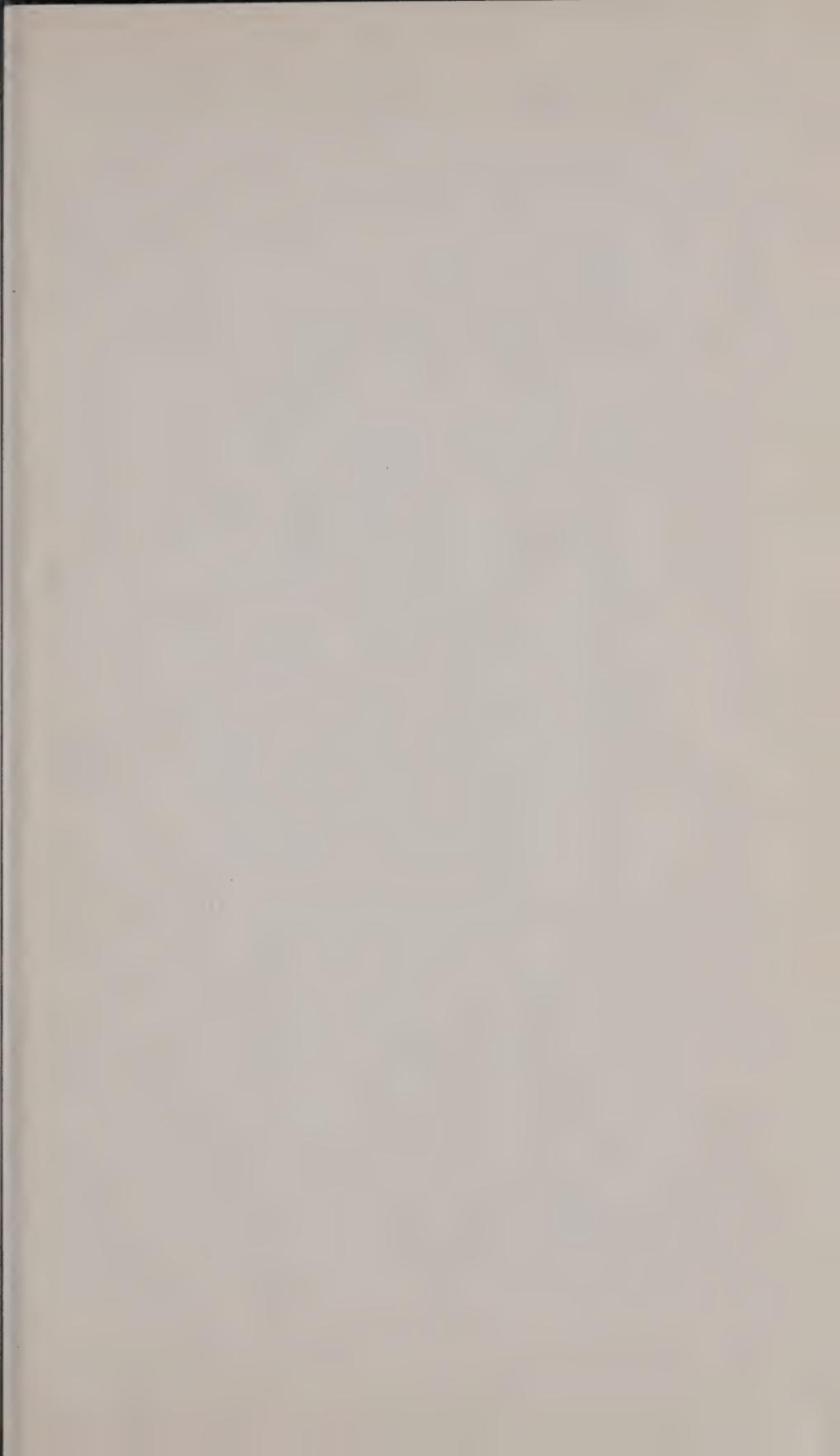
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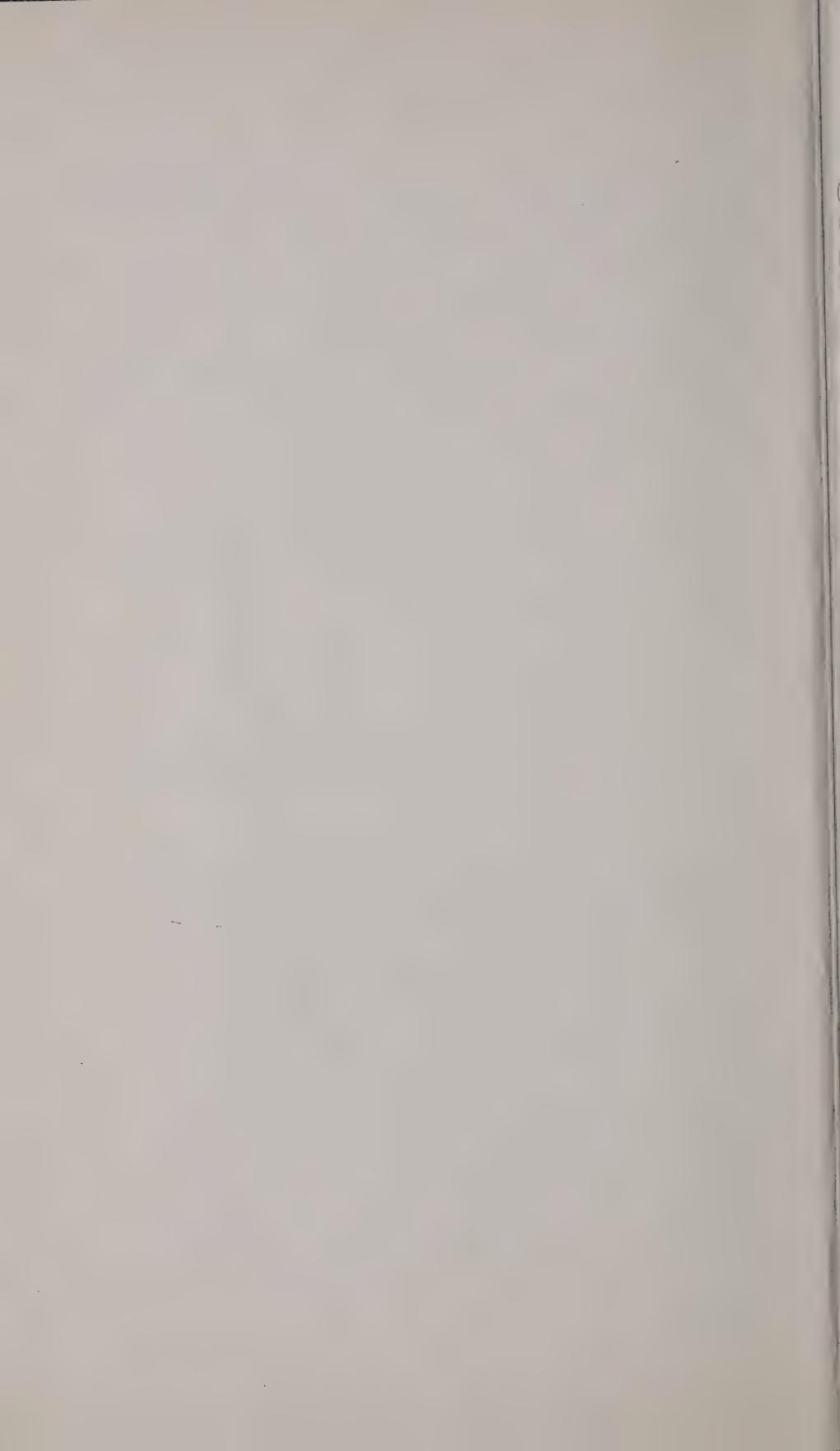
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## FOREWORD

Donald Cooper Egger was born in Beallsville, Ohio April 7, 1897. His parents were Margaret and Benjamin J. Egger. He received his A.B. degree from the College of Wooster in 1921. His M.A. from Ohio State University in 1927. He was a veteran of World War I. Married to Wilma Cox in 1927, they had one daughter, Mrs. Elaine Hand of Washington Court House, Ohio.

Mr. Egger served as head of the Killbuck School from 1927 to 1941, then he became Holmes County Supt. of Schools, a position he held until his death June 25, 1959.

Mr. Egger's interest in History was well known. He believed that the American colonies furnished the ablest group of men that any country ever had at one particular time in history. He never ceased his study of the lives, deeds and influence of these makers of our Democratic form of Government. This is evidenced by the fine historical library which he had in his home. He believed that it was the duty of every citizen living in this Democracy to love it enough to seek the necessary wisdom that would make it as fine as the founders had planned it to be. Freedom makes a huge requirement of every human being. With freedom comes responsibility - freedom means to make decisions.

Having lived in Holmes County for so many years his natural sense of history caused him to make a thorough study of the place he had chosen to live. It was by some diligent research that he found the dusty recorded events - preserved by some of the county's early citizens. These findings, Mr. Egger recorded in long-hand that they might become a part of his library and with pride could refer to the early happenings of his adopted county. These writers and Mr. Egger may not have the qualities which dazzle and astonish

but they show a wonderful intellectual patience.

Donald Egger was a true example of a man who understood his native land, its Government and the obligations that citizens owe to a country that represents freedom. Sound in his judgment and firm in his final conclusions, an honest man, Donald Egger, thru life performed every duty that devolved upon him with scrupulous fidelity.

Mrs. Donald C. Egger  
July 31, 1963.

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## Holmes County Named

Letter from Ohio State Archaeological & Historical Society dated Feb. 11, 1933 to W. Stilwell :

The sketch of Major Andrew Hunter Holmes after whom your county was named reads as follows:

From Mississippi: Captain of the 24th Infantry, 12th of March, 1812; Major Assistant Adjutant General 8th of June to the 4th of September, 1813; Major of the 32nd Infantry 18th of April, 1814; Brevet Major 4th of March, 1814; killed 4th of August 1814 in attack on Fort Mackinac, Michigan.

On pages 850 to 851 of Lossing's Field Book of the War of 1812, there is a description of the engagement in which Major Holmes lost his life.

Brief sketch of his life and military career is found in Heitman's Register.

Letter from Department of Archives and History State of Mississippi dated May 18, 1933 to Wayne Stilwell:

Andrew Hunter Holmes (called after Rev. Andrew Hunter, his mother's brother, Chaplain at the Navy Yard, and before that resident at Princeton, New Jersey), the youngest child, a man of rare talents. A member of the bar in New Orleans when the War of 1812 broke out. Went into the army; distinguished himself in various engagements; especially in one on the Thames, Canada West, where he defeated a part of a Highland regiment in a regular fight (see histories of the war) and fell leading his wing of Colonel Croghan's force, against Machinaw at the unsuccessful attack on that place in 1814 (I think). See the Governor's will disposing of the sword voted by the Virginia legislature to his nearest male heir. It was

left by Governor Holmes to his nephew Rev Andrew Hunter Holmes Boyd, a son of Mrs. Nancy Boyd and an eminent divine of the New School Presbyterian Church, now living in Winchester. Major Hunter Holmes died unmarried and thus the name - so far as the Governor's family is concerned - became extinct on the 20 th of August, 1832, when he died. Descendents of Colonel Holmes to the fourth generation are numerous, but they are all descendants of his daughters and bear other patronymics, the names of the families into which they were married.

"From Centenary Series, Vol IV, Publications of the Mississippi Historical Society, page 237. The above exerpt is from 'David Holmes, First Governor of Mississippi' by D.H. Conrad

Taken from last paragraph of Holmes County History - Historical Sketch of Major Holmes for whom Holmes County was named by Wayne Stilwell.

Of the five hundred American soldiers who took part in the assault on Fort Mackinac, I know of only one who later became a citizen of Holmes County. John Harris, born in Maryland in 1767, married Catherine Cunningham probably in Brooke County, Virginia, where most of the family were born. He served under Major Holmes at Mackinac and after the war settled about two miles south of Nashville, Holmes County, where his youngest child, Jesse A. Harriss, later became County Commissioner, was born in 1818. He had previously fought under that great Indian fighter Louis Wetzel and his brother. A great number of the Harriss family and allied families in Western Holmes County are descended from or related to this same John Harriss, who died in 1863, aged ninety-six years. The above mentioned Jesse A. Harriss was the grandfather of the author of this history.

from another paragraph

A landing was made on the west end of the island August 4th and in the ensuing attack, Major Holmes and eleven other Americans were killed

## HISTORY OF HOLMES COUNTY

Prepared by  
G. F. Newton, Esq.

To be read at the Centennial Celebration at that place, July 4th, 1876

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen: - Your committee have assigned to me the arduous task of historian on this occasion. In this epitome, it can scarcely be expected that I record all the events connected with the early settlement of this part of the country, by the white man and the departure of the Indian. Therefore I shall confine myself to a few of the most important ones; giving as briefly as possible the progress of civilization, the organization of the county, and other institutions for our benefit and welfare. In doing this I may record events that to some, may seem foreign to a history of Holmes County, but to such I will say, there are many events that did not transpire within our borders, and yet are so connected with others that did transpire here that it is difficult to separate them without destroying the sense of the narrative. In giving the various items of history, I may at times deviate from their chronological order. If so it is for the purpose of condensing it as much as possible. After a single preliminary remark in reference to the occasion that brought us here today, and some incidents peculiarly connected therewith, I shall proceed with my subject.

It is in the Providence of God that we are permitted to assemble together on this occasion to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of American Independence, an event, to us, the most important and interesting of all others in the history of our beloved country. There is in the time and place of this meeting a very remarkable coincident with the first one of the kind held after the organi-

zation of the county. Fifty years after the signing of that document just read in your hearing (the Declaration of American Independence,) the people of this county as citizens thereof met for the first time in this square, on the 4th day of July 1826, to celebrate this memorable speech. To-day we meet on this same spot and for the same purpose, making this the Semi Centennial of our first celebration in the county, as well as the Centennial of our National birth. What is still more remarkable there are a number of persons here today, who were at the first celebration, some of whom held conspicuous positions on that occasion. The names of those who officiated at that celebration are, President, Major John Glasgo; Crator, Hon. S.S. Henry, then our Representative in the Ohio Legislature. Chaplin John Stogdon, minister in charge of the Presbyterian congregations at Hopewell and Millersburg. Chorister, Archibald Barton, who I understand is to sing the Doxology. Here today, Marshall of the day Colonel Russell Wheaton, Commandant of Military department, Captain John Fury.

On a map of the territory of Ohio, made in 1764, there are three Indian towns located on the Killbuck. One at its confluence with the Walhonding called the White Women's Town, one near the northern boundary of Holmes County, called Killbuck's Town and one at the forks of the river at Wooster, called Beaver hat sometimes Apple Orchard. This beautiful valley and these romantic hills were once the hunting grounds of that noted and humane Indian chief Gelelemend (Captain Killbuck) and his people. The river yonder was called by them Killbuck, after the old chief, Captain Killbuck's father.

#### THE FIRST WHITE RESIDENT ON KILLBUCK

In 1730, Mary Harris, then a girl was taken prisoner by some Delaware Indians, belonging to

Custaloga's tribe, and was adopted as one of the people. When she grew to womanhood, the beauty of her charms captivated the young Prince, Eagle Feather, Custaloga's son and he made her his squaw. The various tribes of Indians, including the Delewares, were crowded back by the white colonies of the East, and Custaloga with his people took up their abode in Ohio, on the Tuscarawas. Soon after the year 1740 the young chief Eagle Feather, with Mary established themselves on the Walhonding river at the mouth of the Killbuck. He was soon joined by others of his kinsmen who made up his clan. Their town was called the White Woman's Town, and the river from there to the Muskingum, White Woman, in honor of Mary, Eagle Feather's squaw. By the year 1750 Mary had become thoroughly Indianized; entering into all their manners and customs with apparent delight. When Eagle Feather went on the war-path, Mary with her own hands mixed the paint and laid it on his brow - pluming him in the most approved Indian custom. She was careful to put up a sufficiency of dried venison and corn for the journey. After handing him his hatchet, polished for the occasion, she would admonish him not to return without some long-haired scalps for wig-wam ornaments for the first-class Indian ladies of the town.

The valley of the Killbuck was Eagle Feather's principal hunting grounds, and Mary frequently accompanied her husband, as she called him, when on his elk and bear hunts. Eagle Feather was very fond of Mary, and when he visited his cousins up the valley, at Killbuck's Town and Apple Orchard, he was careful to take her with him. She was the first white person known to have passed along the valley of the Killbuck.

When Christopher Gist visited the Tuscarawas valley, in 1750, for George Washington and the Virginia Land Company, he went up the Walhonding river to the White Woman's Town and to some ex-

tent enjoyed its Indian festivities for a few days with Mary. She told him she loved the savage warrior and that she preferred the Indian to white life, saying that she thought that white men were more cruel to their wives than the red men were to theirs.

Thomas Burney, a white man lived among the Indians of the Tuscarawas from 1750 to 1760. He was a blacksmith and used to sharpen hatchets, etc. for the Indians. He was at the White Woman's Town, and other towns up the Killbuck, and it is believed he was the first white man within the limits of Holmes County.

### OTHER WHITE PERSONS WITHIN OUR BORDERS

In 1755, James Smith, while engaged in opening a wagon road through Bedford County, Pa., was surprised and taken prisoner by some Delaware Indians and taken to Fort Duquesne. He was afterwards taken to one of the Delaware towns on the Mohican called Tulhillas. After Smith arrived at this town he was taken into the river where all the white blood was washed out of him (as they called it) by three young squaws, and after other ceremonies were gone through with he was pronounced one of their people. The Indians took a great liking to him giving him much attention. He says "the country abounded in game of all kinds including bears, elk, and buffaloes, and that they frequently took him with them hunting." On one occasion he got lost and lay in the woods over night. The Indians supposing he had gone back to the whites, were making preparation to go in pursuit of him, when Smith returned. They were much pleased and treated him with more attention than before. As it is but a short distance from the north-west corner of our county to where the town of Tulhillas was located, there is every reason to believe Smith was over the west end of our county. Tulhillas was a kind of a

city with the Indians and was once the headquarters of that wily daring Indian chief, Captain Pipe.

In the latter part of the year 1760, Captain Rogers, of Vernon, and 200 men was sent by the British to take possession of Detroit. The next year he and his men returned to the settlements by way of Fort Pitt, which by this time had become a British post. On their way to Fort Pitt, Rogers and his men stopped at the Indian town, Tulhillas, for provisions. Rogers says in his notes, after leaving the Indian town we crossed a long prairie. This must have been what we now call Big Prairie, and as it extends over into Holmes County, there is reason to believe that that little army was within our borders.

When I came to this county forty years ago there was a tradition among the early settlers, that General Wayne, with his army, passed over the southeast corner of our county. This is in part a mistake, and in place of it being General Wayne, it was Colonel Bouquet. After the defeat of the French at Quebec by General Wolf, the whole frontier along the Canada border, the Lakes, and the Ohio Valley, fell into the possession of the English Colonies. In this newly acquired territory, between the Blue Ridge and the Lakes, by the year 1762 the English occupied twelve Forts, garrisoned by soldiers for the protection of the frontier settlers against the Indians. The wily chief, Pontiac, of the Ottawa tribe then located on Lake Erie, preferring the French to the English and Americans, determined to drive the whites back beyond the Alleghenies. To do this he formed a confederation of all the tribes of the western Indians, himself becoming the head chief. A simultaneous blow was struck at each of these forts. By the trickery and bravery of himself, nine of these forts fell into his hands. The whole frontier was now exposed to the Indians, who in the most brutal man-

ner killed hundreds of settlers, and carried many more far into the wilderness, there to be tortured to death or held as prisoners.

In 1764 General Bradstreet, with 3000 men marched up the lakes against Pontiac who was defeated and the Indians in that part of the territory entered into a treaty, agreeing to return all the white prisoners. In the same year Colonel Bouquet was ordered to Fort Pitt, that being one of the forts that did not fall into the hands of the Indians, and from thence into the Ohio valley against the Delaware, Shawanese, and other tribes in that locality. On the 3d day of October, 1764 he left Fort Pitt, with 1500 men and two pieces of artillery. After reaching the Tuscarawas valley, and a little below the Indian town of that name, he built a stockaded fort for the purpose of storing some provisions for the troops on their return. The Indians were very much afraid of his artillery. The chiefs who were in council a few miles distant, sent some of their men to inform the Colonel that they were ready to treat with him. The next day a treaty was agreed upon, and soon after the Delaware chiefs delivered to him 18 white prisoners and 83 sticks, the number of prisoners they would deliver as soon as the Colonel reached Coshocton. The other chiefs did likewise. The chiefs in council were Kiyastrula of the Seneca tribe; Custaloga, of the Wolf and Paupelenan of the Turkey Delaware tribes and Kieffwautchtha of the Shawanese tribe. The Colonel was informed by these chiefs, that there were bands of Indians down the Tuscarawas valley over which they had no control, and lest he or his men might be annoyed by them, they offered to show him a nearer route to Coshocton. This was accepted and the chief Kiyahfuta, their principal speaker was retained for that purpose. The army crossed the Tuscarawas river and going in a southwest direction, crossed Sugar Creek at the mouth of Broad run thence up that stream and

over the ridge they struck the south branch of Sugar Creek up which they continued to its source Again crossing the ridge they came into the valley of White Eyes Creek and down it to the Tuscarawas river. After receiving all the prisoners he could get that fall, Colonel Bouquet returned home up the valley. He left Coshocton on the 18th day of November with 206 released prisoners and a pledge from the Shawnee tribe of 100 more early the next spring.

There is no doubt about Colonel Bouquet's army crossing the South east corner of German township in this county as the road cut by the soldiers for the transportation of the artillery and other munitions of war, could be easily traced by the Pioneer fathers when they first settled that part of the county.

### CRAWFORD'S ARMY ON THE KILLBUCK

On the 25th of May 1782 Colonel Crawford with over 400 volunteers mounted on horses and well armed, left the Mingo bottom on the Ohio River for the purpose of chastising the Indians on the Sandusky for depredations committed on the border settlers. They crossed the Tuscarawas river near the mouth of Sugar Creek and continuing up the valley entered Holmes County on lot Number 14, township 10 range 4 now owned by E. Malone in Paint township. Their route through the county was down Martin's Creek to the gap on the Dawson farm, thence through that gap and over the flats at Holmesville crossing Saltcreek on the Croco farm, they reached the Killbuck at the big spring on the Jones farm where they encamped for the night. One of the men who was sick died that night and was buried early the next morning May 31st and the initials of his name cut on a tree to show his last resting place. As soon as the army could be got ready they set out up the valley and crossed the Killbuck at the mouth of

Hershey's run and continued up the valley to Polley's run. Here they struck out westward and passed along the north side of Odell's Lake. In that army was a man by the name of Nicholas Dawson, a volunteer from Westmoreland County, Pa. He was the grandson of Thomas Dawson who came to America with his parents with Cecil Calvert, (Lord Baltimore) and the grandfather of Benoni Dawson who is now the owner of the land at the gap which that army passed through in 1782.

### THE LAST RESIDENT INDIAN ON KILLBUCK

The valleys of the Killbuck and its tributaries, abounding in game were favorable hunting grounds for the Indians. They were loath to give them up, and although they had long before ceded to the United States Government their rights to these lands, they did not leave them until long after the first settlement made by the whites. Tom Lion, an old Indian of the Deleware tribe was the last of that race to retain a residence here. His wigwam was north of Berlin on Lion's run. He was well known to the early settlers, and as he could talk tolerably good English, he very much annoyed and frightened the women with his yarns telling them of his desperate encounters with the white settlers in his young days. Some times he would tell the women he had at his wigwam, the dried tongues of 99 white persons saying "you speak much and me like yours to make the hundred" A little north-east of the old town of Millersburg lived Jacob Ammon, one of the first settlers of the county and a volunteer in the War of 1812 for the protection of the border settlers against the Indians. He and Lion were once on terms of intimacy and the latter was frequently at the cabin of the former. On one occasion Lion borrowed Ammon's gun, promising to return it in a few days, but did not do so. After waiting some days longer than the stipulated pe-

riod, and Ammon needing his gun, he sent Lion word that if the gun was not returned by a day mentioned, it would cost him his life. Before the day fixed, Lion returned the gun, but in a very bad humor, and threats were made on both sides. Mrs. Ammon gave Lion something to eat and he went off toward the Killbuck. In a short time he returned, saying he had found an old she bear with two cubs in the alder swamp south on the Killbuck, and wanted the gun to shoot her. Ammon, suspecting a trick, refused the gun, but offered to go himself and do the shooting. To this Mrs. Ammon objected, and finally prevailed on Jacob to stay with her. The next day there was a great gathering of the people for the purpose of raising a house on George Painter's in Saltcreek township. Lion was there, and boasted of being connected with other Indians, in the murder of the Hochstetler family, on the Pennsylvania border. A young man, a relative of the murdered family was present, and heard Lion make the boast. He said he would have satisfaction for the atrocious crime. Shortly after Lion left, the young man and Ammon were seen going in the same direction. No one ever knew whether they overtook Lion, or what became of him. Certain it is he was not seen in any part of Holmes County after that evening. Ammon, who was a great talker, was often heard to say he knew where Lion went to. Nothing was done about his disappearance, - the people were all glad to get rid of him. Your writer got this story from Anson Wheaton, one of the early settlers and bosom friend of Mr. Ammon.

### SURVEYS AND SALE OF THE LANDS

In the year 1784, the Mohawk, Onondago, Seneca, Cayuga, Oneda and Tuscarora tribes of Indians, known as the Six Nations, by treaty, made at

Fort Stanwix, ceded to the United States all their right to the land in the North-West Territory. In 1785, the Deleware, Wyandot, Chippewa and Ottawa tribes of Indians, then living in the North-west territory, by treaty made at Fort Mc Intosh, ceded to the United States all their right to the lands therein, except so much as is contained within the following boundaries: Beginning at the mouth of the Cuyahoga river and up that stream to the portage; thence to the Tuscarawas and down that river to Fort Laurens; thence westwardly to the portage of the Big Miami, which runs into the Ohio; thence along said portage to the Great Miami or Ome river, and down that stream to its mouth; thence eastwardly along the Shore of Lake Erie to the place of beginning. All the land within these limits were reserved for the Indians, except a few small tracts allowed the United States for military and trading posts. The land within this boundary was called the Indian reservation, and a line running diagonally through this county, was its southern boundary.

Congress relying on these treaties directed the land thus ceded to be surveyed. In 1786, the survey of the first seven ranges of townships began. John Mathews acting under General Putnam, the Surveyor General, was the surveyor. His operations were retarded by bands of Shawanese Indians the tribe not having signed the treaty at Fort Mcintosh, they very much annoyed the Surveyor and his men. In 1796, the United States Congress for the purpose of satisfying land bounties granted by the Continental Congress appropriated the land and fixed the boundaries of the United States Military Districts as follows: Beginning at the north-west corner of the first seven ranges of townships, thence south along the western boundary of said townships to the Scioto River, thence up said river to the Indian boundary line thence eastwardly along said boundary to

where it intersects the West boundary of said first seven ranges of townships. All the land in Holmes County south of the Indian boundary line is in this district. The surveying of the lands in this district commenced in 1797 and was completed in 1800.

In 1787 a land office was opened in the city of New York for the sale of lands in the Northwest Territory and in 1796 offices were opened for the same purpose in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. The first land office was established at Steubenville in 1800. Soon after this other offices were established in the State and the lands in this county south of the boundary line became subject to sale at Zanesville, those north of that line at Canton.

By treaty made with the Indians at Fort Industry in 1805 the Indian titles to the lands west of the Connecticut Western Reserve and north of the Indian boundary line was extinguished. In 1806 Congress directed their survey and in 1807 the surveying commenced in the new purchase.

### THE FIRST ENTRY OF LAND IN THE COUNTY

On the 13th of March 1800 the lands in the United States Military District became subject to entry. In that year Hodijah Baylis located 400 acres on Douty Creek for services in the war of 1776. It was the first tract taken up in the county and was known in after years as the Williams farm in Mechanic township. Soon after this other tracts of Military land was located in Monroe, Walnut Creek and Paint townships. No Congress land in the county was located until the land office at Zanesville was opened and in a short time thereafter most of the best tracts south of the boundary line was taken up. As before stated the surveying of the land north of the Indian boundary line (known as the new purchase) began in 1807. In 1808 an office for the

entry of these lands was opened at Canton. John Beaver located in that year 320 acres, now known as the Painter farm. It was the first entry made in that part of Holmes County, north of the boundary line. So rapid was the entry of land in the new purchase, that in a few years all the best tracts of land in that part of the county were taken up.

## OUR COUNTIES AND COUNTY SEATS

In 1787, the Northwest Territory was organized and Gen. St. Clair appointed its governor. By proclamation issued on the 27th day of July of that year, he fixed the boundary of Washington County, the first one organized in the territory and which is as follows: Beginning at the Ohio river on the Western boundary of Pennsylvania, thence with said line to Lake Erie; thence along the shore of the Lake; westward to the Cuyahoga river; thence up said river to the portage between it and the Tuscarawas; thence down that stream to Fort Laurens; thence on a line previously drawn known as the Indian boundary line until it reaches the trail from the lower Shawanese town to the Sandusky river; thence south to the Scioto river; thence down that river to its mouth and up the Ohio to the place of beginning. The land on which we stand today was included in that county and Marietta was our county seat. In 1796 the boundaries of Wayne County were established by proclamation of Governor St. Clair. All the territory north of the Indian boundary line (heretofore described) was included in that county, and Detroit the county seat. In 1804 Muskingum county was organized. All that part of Holmes County south of the Indian boundary line became a part of Muskingum County and Zanesville the county seat. In 1808 Tuscarawas County was organized, and a strip of land, two miles wide at the east end of this county and south of the Indian boundary line, was included in that county.

and New Philadelphia its county seat. In 1811 Coshocton County was organized. All the land in this county south of the boundary line and east of Tuscarawas county was included in Coshocton County and Coshocton the county seat. The same year Wayne County was organized by legislation. All the land in this county north of the boundary line was retained in that county and Wooster the county seat. The settlers within the limits of this county and north of the Indian boundary line went to Wooster; those south of that line to New Philadelphia and Coshocton, to pay their taxes and transact other legal business, until the organization of Holmes County in 1825.

### THE FIRST SETTLERS

It is a difficult task to ascertain, at this late period, who were the first settlers. It is generally conceded, however by the early settlers now living, that Jonathan Grant was the first white man that built a cabin and cultivated a crop in the county. In July 1809 he, with his son, came on foot from Beaver County, Pennsylvania, bringing with them an axe, auger, sack of corn meal, gun and ammunition. In that month they put on a cabin in the valley of Saltcreek on the Beaver land. After building the cabin they cleared some land and sowed it with turnip seed. The day the seed was sown an Indian came to the cabin and asked for something to eat. Grant who was sick at the time, said he had no food to give - that he was nigh to starvation himself. The Indian said "paleface down at the big spring." Grant sent his son to see who was there and in a short time he returned with Jonathan Butler and some provisions. Butler came from Virginia, who with his family had reached the big spring the day before. As soon as Grant got better he went to Butler's and helped him get up his cabin. Grant's turnip patch produced

a large crop. On the approach of cold weather he buried what he wanted of them, giving the remainder to Butler and then went back to Beaver County. The turnips proved of much service to Butler and his family who stayed on the Killbuck that winter. Butler was in fact the first white settler in the county. During that winter Butler's nearest neighbor was Jesse Morgan, who had settled three miles up the valley at the old Killbuck's town. They came from Virginia together. His next nearest neighbors were at Wooster. On the 4th day of February, 1810, Hannah daughter of Jonathan Butler and wife of Mr. David Finney was born at the Big Spring. She was the first person born in Holmes County and is the oldest resident thereof. The place where she was born was also that of the first white burial in the county, being one of Col. Crawford's men as before alluded to.

Early in the spring of 1810, Grant returned to his cabin, bringing his family with him. He found Butler in good health and his turnips in fine condition excepting a few of them had been taken from the hole during the winter by the Indians or white persons looking for land. Grant was followed in April by Messrs. Martin, Dawson and the Knoxes who settled on Martin's Creek. Martin coming three days first the creek was honored with his name. In the same year came Messrs. Haleys, Casters, Wolgamots and John Nevil. That fall John Nevil put up a hewed log house with shingle roof. It was the first of the kind built in the county. In the spring of 1811 Hugh McCulloch and family came and settled on Martin's Creek adjoining Dawson's. The same year the Guinns, Buckmasters and several others settled in Prairie and Saltcreek townships. In April 1811, an election was held at Jonathan Butler's at which time David H. Knox was chosen a Justice of the Peace. This was the first election held in the county and Mr. Knox was the first judicial

officer.

In the beginning of the War of 1812 the great Indian Chief Tecumseh became the ally of the British. He managed to unite all the hostile tribes of Indians in the Northwest territory and was ready at any moment to strike a blow on the border settlers. This threw them into great alarm and they sought protection by building block houses. About this time some Indians were seen on Martin's Creek and the settlers put up a block house on John L. Dawson's land. It was built at the very gap that Dawson's father and Crawford's army had passed through thirty years before on their way to the Sandusky to punish the Indians for depredations committed on the white settlers. As soon as the block house was finished forty five persons went into it the women and children remaining there night and day but the men went out in the daytime to look after their crops. Hugh McColloch Sr. a finely educated man wrote letters to the Governor and two companies of soldiers were sent to the Killbuck for the protection of the settlers. No depredations were committed by the Indians in the neighborhood and in a short time the soldiers were sent elsewhere.

A settlement in the east end of the county was commenced in 1809. In that year Jonas Stutzman built a cabin on Walnut Creek but did not move to it until 1811. In the spring of 1810 Jacob Miller Christian Yoder and John Troyer settled in the same neighborhood. They built cabins and grew a crop of corn that year. By 1812 the Weavers Hochstetlers Shrocks and others had formed quite a settlement and in 1815 a school house was erected and a school taught. This was the first school house in the county.

In 1810-11 the Bergers Domers Haneys Millers and Troyers settled in German township. From 1810-1812 a few settlements were made in Paint and the east of Salt Creek townships by

Barrolds, Snyders, Hurless, Thombergs, and others.

In the early part of 1810 James L. Priest settled on Mohican, and near the town of Loudonville. He was soon followed by the Drakes, Conners, Newkirks, Bonnets and Odells. East of the lake in Ripley township, Humberger, McConkeys, Stuckeys, Gorsuches, Mathersons, and others settled about the same time.

In the south part of the county, Abraham Shrimplin made the first settlement. He came in March, 1810. After building a cabin he cleared the land and put out a crop of corn. In April of the same year George and Thomas Carpenter, William and Samuel Morrison settled on Douty Creek. They each grew a small crop of corn the same year. During the summer of that year Peter Casey settled on the west side of Killbuck and opposite the town of Millersburg. His first crop was rye which was a good one. Charles Uhl, Sr., settled on the flats, southwest of Millersburg in 1815. His brothers William, Jacob, and George followed soon after and settled on lands adjoining.

From 1811 to 1814 Finneys, Mackeys, Underhill, Heveland and Thomas Frazier settled in Monroe township and during the same period Jacob Korns, John Swigart, James Shimer, Joseph Edgar and others made a settlement about Berlin. Korns was a blacksmith and first in that part of the county.

In Richland and Knox townships settlements were commenced about 1816. The DeWitts, Harrises and Mackeys were among the first settlers in that locality.

In the fall of 1810 Abraham Shrimplin after gathering his crop of corn returned to the old settlement and remained there over the winter. Early the next spring he and his wife returned to their new home. Samuel Shrimplin and some others came with them and settled in the same neighborhood. I had nearly forgotten to mention that the Calhouns settled in Hardy township in 1817.

James who settled on Sand Run the year they came to this county has been a resident of Hardy township since that time. He is probably the oldest man now living in the county being nearly ninety two years of age. William Kerr settled the farm where Henry Croco lives in 1812. He was the first blacksmith in the vicinity of Holmesville. Mr Gorsuch that settled on Paint Creek made augers and in this way was of much service to the early settlers. James Adams moved to the infirmary farm in 1816. His trade was sickle making. He was of great service in repairing and sharpening sickles. Perhaps no one was more useful in the country than Jacob Korns of Berlin. In addition to blacksmithing he made mill stones splitting them from the large granite boulders and dressing them in the nicest possible manner. The first school taught in the county was in 1812 by Joseph Edgar in the house of Josiah Bell and where the town of Holmesville is now situated.

### INCIDENTS OF FRONTIER LIFE

Bravery and manhood was considered by the Pioneers as the noblest traits of character in the young men. The Castors and Buckmasters possessed a full share of it often to the chagrin and mortification of their comrades. Some time after the Castors came to the county Mac who was considered the best man of the family met a very large Indian. They had seen each other before. Castor had with him his rifle a very handsome one. The Indian asked if he might look at it at the same time setting his own gun by the side of a tree. Mac let the Indian look at his gun who after handling it a little said "Me swap". Castor said he would not swap. The Indian said "me biggest man and me swap". Castor took hold of the gun to take it by force when the Indian let go the gun and seizing Castor threw him to the

ground and commenced fighting. After several efforts, Castor turned the Indian under, and dealing such severe blows in his face that the Indian soon cried out: "Me no swap, me no swap," Castor continued pounding away until the Indian's face was in a jelly; then springing suddenly to his feet, caught up his gun. A few seconds after the Indian was on his feet and taking up his gun, said, "me no swap." Castor extended to the Indian his hand and they parted apparently good friends.

A few weeks after this occurrence there was a gathering of the people for the purpose of raising a house. Young Jim Lion, an Indian was there and bantered the young white men to jump. Mac Castor took the banter. Lion then proposed putting up their guns and the winner to take both of them. Mac did not like to risk the losing of his gun but finally consented, and the guns were put up. The jumping was performed by a run, two hops and a jump. The Indian giving the banter was required to jump first. Castor's first jump overreached the Indian's several feet and Lion after several trials gave up beat, he jumping 50 and Castor 51 feet. Mac handed Jim his gun, telling him if he ever showed his face again he would serve him as he had the big Indian.

Joshua Buckmaster, who was a noted man among the settlers for his daring bravery and courage, had a desperate fight with an Indian, at or near Odell's lake about some honey he was getting from an Indian squaw. Her brave was with her and took offence at something Buckmaster said about the honey, and told him he must fight or die. Buckmaster preferring the former to the latter, stripped for the occasion. When the Indian dropped his blanket he had nothing on but his breech-clout, and running at Buckmaster, caught him and threw him down. The Indian being much the largest man and naked, had greatly the advantage and for some time the fight was in his favor. After

many efforts Buckmaster regained his feet and getting loose from the Indian dealt him a blow that felled him to the ground and jumping on him with both feet knocked the breath out of him. Then kicking and pounding him severely the Indian soon gave up. When I settled in this county Buckmaster was one of my nearest neighbors. He showed me the scars on his back where the Indian bit him.

I might relate many incidents of great daring and courage on the part of the early settlers by both men and women in fights with bears panthers wolves and catamounts but time and space will not admit of them here

### IMPROVEMENTS

The first saw mill in the county was built by Edward Martin on Martin's Creek in 1814 and on the farm John Wheaten now lives on. In 1815 John Guinn built a grist mill on Salt Creek. It was the first one in the county and was a little above the lower railroad bridge crossing that stream. The second mill in the county was built by Cyrus Newkirk near Odell's lake in 1816 and shortly after it Morgan built his mill on Polly's run. About the same time a saw mill was put up on Walnut Creek and a grist mill on Sugarcreek in Paint township. Soon after this a mill was built on Douty creek on the William's farm and known as William's mill. Jonathan Butler erected a mill on Killbuck in 1818 and was the first mill on the river. In 1820 the Oxford mill was put up by the Hustons. In 1817 a fulling mill was erected by Mr. Stofflet on Saltcreek and in 1819 old Mr Buchanan started on Paint Creek machinery for carding wool.

In the fall of 1815 a bridge was erected over Killbuck and opposite Holmesville and known as the Poulsom bridge. It was put up by John Painter and was the first bridge in the county. The

second bridge across the Killbuck was opposite the old town of Millersburg, built in 1818 by John Painter and James French. The first bridge over the Killbuck at our county seat was built by William Painter in 1825.

The town of Berlin was laid out in 1816 by John Swigert and was the first town in the county. Other towns were laid out about the same time but have since become obsolete. The old town of Millersburg was laid out by Charles Miller in 1819. Anson Wheaten and Thomas Hoskins were among the first residents of the town, the latter kept hotel there and was the first one kept in this part of the county.

The town of Millersburg, our county seat, was laid out by Adam Johnson and Charles Miller in 1824. William Painter put up the first frame house built in the town. In it was held the first judicial court of the county being in February 1825. The bar room or parlor was used for the court room and part of the barn was fixed up for the jail.

The act for the organization of the county was passed January 20th 1824 but the county was not fully organized until April 1825. The county is named after Major Holmes, an officer of the war of 1812 who was killed at Fort Mackinac and the county seat is named after Charles Miller one of the proprietors of the town.

As before stated our first term of the court of Common Pleas was held in February 1825. The Hon Alexander Harper, of Zanesville, was the President Judge and Hon. Peter Casey of Hardy Hon. Geo. Luke of German and Hon. William Hutchinson of Saltcreek townships his associates. At this term of the court Charles D. Goddard Esq. of Zanesville was appointed Prosecuting Attorney; James S. Irvine, of Millersburg Clerk with Robert K. Enos Esq. as deputy and Daniel Hutchinson Sheriff. During the term of this court James S. Irvine was appointed County Recorder.

The first election held in the county of Holmes was in April, 1825. At this election county as well as township officers were chosen. All township officers in the several townships whose terms of office did not expire with this election held over to the end of their next term. At this first election there were but nine townships in the county. The county officers chosen were Auditor Seth Hunt of Millersburg Sheriff Daniel Hutchinson of Saltcreek County Commissioners Frederick Hall of Berlin Griffith Johnson of Washington and D T Finney of Monroe townships.

The first session of the County Commissioner was held April 18th 1825 at which time Peter Casey was appointed Treasurer. At the December session of the County Commissioners in 1825 the number and boundaries of the several townships were fixed. They have remained unchanged to this day. Their order on the books of the county are as follows: German Mechanic Killbuck Richland Knox Monroe Hardy Berlin Walnut Creek Paint Saltcreek Prairie Ripley and Washington and are numbered in the order I have given them.

After the organization of the county our first representatives were in Congress Hon John C Wright of Jefferson County in the Ohio Legislature Hon Edward Every of Wayne County in the Senate and Hon S S Henry of Holmes County in the House.

## POPULATION

I have not the means of ascertaining the exact number of the population of the county at the time of its organization in 1825. It will be safe to say that it was not less than 5000. At the taking of the census in 1830 the population of the county was 9 135. In 1840 it had nearly doubled being 18 088. In 1850 it was 20 452 and is about the same number at this time.

## VALUE OF PROPERTY AND TAXATION

The value of all property brought on the tax duplicate fifty years ago, being for 1826 and the total amount of taxes levied thereon, are as follows:

	Lands
Total val. of all lands and town lots	\$26,820.
	Chattels
Total value of horses	\$ 6,480
Total value of cattle	\$ 2,096.
Total from all sources	\$35,396.

The total amount of taxes assessed for all purposes on the above valuation was \$3,134.41 being at the rate of eleven dollars, twenty nine cents and two mills on the one hundred dollars valuation, or 11 3/10 mills on the dollars valuation.

It will be noticed that at the time the above duplicate was made there were but three kinds of property subject to taxation land, horses and cattle, which was valued as follows: Land was divided into three classes, first, second, and third rates; first rate valued at \$1 per acre, second rate, 75 cents and third rate 50¢ per acre. Land was not taxed for five years after it was bought from the government. All horses three years old and over were valued at forty dollars and all cattle three years old and over at eight dollars each.

The value of all property brought on the Tax Duplicate for 1875 was \$8,408.792 and the total amount of taxes assessed thereon for all purposes was \$112,496.36 making an average rate of taxation of nearly thirteen and four tenths mills on the dollars valuation.

## CONCLUSION

There are many other things I would like to notice especially our improvements since the organization of the county the foremost of which is our railroad newspapers and schools but time and space forbids it now I will promise you however that should my life be spared I will give them in a better manner than I can possibly do here.

7-20-76 F

## A CARD

Holmesville, O., July 8, 1876.

Editors Millersburg Papers By the programme for the Centennial celebration at Millersburg it was announced that G F Newton Esq. was to read a history of the county. For some cause unknown to us the history was not read and we were disappointed. As citizens of the county and interested in its history we respectfully ask of Mr Newton that he furnish a copy of the same for publication We also respectfully ask that you will kindly oblige the readers of your papers by publishing the same: 7-13-76 F

10 signatures

## One Hundred Years

Holmes County is celebrating her One Hundred Anniversary this week and in connection with the celebration we take pleasure in presenting to our readers a brief history of the county. This matter is taken largely from the historical notes of the late George F. Newton who came to the county in 1835. He was greatly interested in the development of the county and spent many years searching records and collecting material for a county history which he intended to publish and no resident of the county was better qualified to do that work. Our readers can rely on the facts herein stated. - L.G. Barton, Editor.

### Holmes County History

The end of the War of 1812, brought about a rapid occupancy of the lands along Killbuck Creek and its tributaries. The inconvenience of these settlements in transacting business at the county seats of Wooster and Coshocton, and the hope of construction of a proposed canal along the Killbuck valley, were two of the things that agitated the creation of a new county, and helped mold sentiment in its favor. Petitions were signed by a number of the settlers and in 1822 and 1823 the idea was transformed into a reality, and a long and bitter contest followed. The Journals of the Ohio Legislature at that time discloses the proceedings.

On Friday, Dec. 12, 1823 petitions for the erection of a new county to be named Holmes from parts of Coshocton, Knox, Tuscarawas and Wayne Counties was presented to the Senate by Zacheus A. Peatty senator from Guernsey County and these petitions were on the same day referred to a committee, with privilege to report a bill for the construction of a new county, and the Senate at once notified the House of its action.

The proposed erection of this new county met with serious objections from a large number of interested parties and in order to counteract the movement in the Senate, petitions were presented to the House of Representatives on January 3, 1824, for the erection of a new county from parts of Coshocton, Richland, Knox and Wayne, the new county to be named "Louden". This petition was also referred to a committee. The Senate committee at once reported out the bill for the erection of a new county to be called "Holmes" from parts of Tuscarawas, Coshocton and Wayne Counties. The several petitions and remonstrances were referred to committees and the Senate bill was reported out for action. On Jan. 20, 1824 the bill to erect Holmes County from parts of Coshocton, Tuscarawas and Wayne Counties was ordered enrolled by the House and was concurred in by the Senate and the bill was signed. Thus, the bill to erect Holmes County bears the date of January 20, 1824, and the first important step toward the establishment of Holmes County had been completed, and the next thing was the organization which was postponed until the legislature again met on the first Monday in December, 1824.

The session convened on December 6, 1824. On December 27, the engrossed bill to organize Holmes County was passed by the House and sent to the Senate and was passed by that body on December 29. The bill was ordered enrolled and signed on January 4, 1825. Section 6 of the organization bill provides:

"That until the said County of Holmes shall be laid off into townships agreeably to law, the electors in the township of Ross in the County of Tuscarawas, who are attached to the said county of Holmes shall vote with the electors of the township of Berlin; and the electors in the township of Sugarcreek in Tuscarawas County shall vote with the electors of German township; and the electors of the township of Paint and Salt-

creek in the County of Wayne who are attached to said County of Holmes, shall meet and hold their election at the house of Peter Pearsall in said township of Saltcreek and the electors in the township of Pike in the County of Wayne who are attached to said County of Holmes shall vote with the electors of the township of Ripley and the electors in the township of Lake, in the County of Wayne who are attached to said County of Holmes shall vote with the electors of the township of Washington and the electors in the township of Richland in said County of Holmes shall meet and hold their election at the house of George Hoglin in said township."

In area Holmes County contains about 420 square miles of which 87,440 acres were taken from Wayne County, 162,200 acres from Coshocton County, and 16,200 acres from Tuscarawas County, a total of 265,840 acres.

At a meeting of the County Commissioners in June, 1825, it was ordered that the County of Holmes be laid out into townships, and the same was organized as follows:

Township No. 1	-	German
"	No. 2	- Mechanic
"	No. 3	- Killbuck
"	No. 4	- Richland
"	No. 5	- Knox
"	No. 6	- Monroe
"	No. 7	- Hardy
"	No. 8	- Berlin
"	No. 9	- Walnut Creek
"	No. 10	- Paint
"	No. 11	- Saltcreek
"	No. 12	- Prairie
"	No. 13	- Ripley
"	No. 14	- Washington

The territories composing each township is described on the record by metes and bounds and they remain today the same as first organized with the exception of German township which in

1918 was changed to Clark township.

The county was named after Major Holmes, a gallant young officer of the War of 1812, who was killed in the unsuccessful attack upon Mackinac under Colonel Croghan, August 4, 1814. Ft. Holmes at Mackinac was also named after him.

A line passing diagonally through the county east and west, from the northern part of Knox township to the eastern line of Paint township is known as the "Indian Boundary" or "Greenville Treaty" line and separates the United States Military District and the Indian Reservation. The territory north of this line was surveyed into townships of six miles square and into sections of 640 acres; that south of said line into townships five miles square and into quarter townships of 4000 acres. Some of these quarter townships were divided into 100 acre lots for the private soldiers of 1776 and 480 of these 100-acre lots were given to the soldiers of the Revolutionary War. Six of the 4000 acre tracts of land were set apart as school land for the Connecticut Western Reserve and subsequently sold at public sale. The remainder of the territory was surveyed into sections of 640 acres and sold at private entry at Zanesville.

On February 2, 1825 the General Assembly named Peter Casey, George Luke and William Hutchinson associate judges of the Court of Common pleas for the county and they met on February 18, 1825 in the bar room of the hotel of William Painter, situated on the lot now occupied by Samuel E Mayers, as a residence of the north-east corner of the intersection of South Washington and Adams Streets and opened the first court and perfected a temporary organization for the government of the county. Their term of office was for seven years from February 4, 1825. James Sample Irvine was appointed Clerk of Court, and he was also appointed county Recorder for a term of seven years.

Irvine was paid \$35. for his services as Clerk of Court for the year 1825. A surveyor was necessary, and Samuel Robinson who was the father of the late Hamilton H. Robinson who will be remembered by the present day generation was appointed county surveyor. Peter Casey was appointed treasurer for one year, ending on April 18, 1826 and he gave bond of \$5000. with James Witherow, Samuel S. Henry and Seth Hunt as securities.

## Fire in Millersburg

or

## The Great Fire

Sunday, May 11, 1834, was the great fire that consumed the principal part of Millersburg. The fire originated in the Painter building, which had been a hotel before, located on the lot now occupied by the residence of Louis Mayers. The building was occupied by Jonathan Morrison and Mr. Craig. Craig's family was away and Morrison and his wife went fishing that day. About noon a violent gust of wind came up from the south-west, blew open the door and blew coals from the old-fashioned fire-place by which the building was fired. John Armor's tread-mill, for grinding grain, was the next to catch. From there it went to Peter Knight's dwelling and black-smith shop, where the Presbyterian Church now stands. It's course was then up Clay Street to the alley in the rear of the Empire House, consuming the dwellings of John C. Taylor and Francis Haughey, and the stabling belonging to the hotel now known as the McDowell building. Then it took an easterly direction, consuming the old Court House and jail, on the public square; John Cary's dwelling, on what is now known as the Wood's property; Tidball's hotel, the best building in town, and stabling on the lot now occupied by John Caskey's dwelling; John Glasgo's brick dwelling, on the lot now occupied by Philip Lepla; thence across Jackson Street, consuming the large dwelling of William Butler, east of where the engine house now stands, the residence of John Taylor east of that, and the residence of Joseph Tidball on the Leadbetter lot, east of Alfred Crump's. The large dwelling of Robert Bell, on the lot now occupied by Dr. Crump's office, was then consumed. The wind then changed and blew back over the burnt district, else the whole town would doubt-

less have been consumed.

The fire destroyed more than half the buildings of the town, and decidedly the most valuable ones. The present Court House, then new, was saved by the almost superhuman exertions of Michael Walleck and others, and most of the other buildings were on fire, but saved.

A majority of the citizens had gone to Fredericksburg and Hopewell to church, and comparatively few were left to fight the flames.

Old citizens recite a good many laughable incidents, among which is the following: "Samuel S. Henry kept a dry goods store in a building where Fred Fritz now does business, and William Tidball kept a store in the adjoining building west, now occupied by Max Vorweck. Henry and Tidball became so frightened that they were incapable of doing anything and while others were extinguishing the fire that every few minutes that caught in their buildings, they were walking about wringing their hands and crying, 'Oh Lord!'" Judge Casey, who lived on the Armstrong Wolgomot farm, came to town, almost out of breath, and seized them one at a time, gave them a good shaking up and told them it was no time to hallow "Oh, Lord," and ordered them to take buckets and go to work, which they did.

5-11-76 F

.....to 1834, when the town was burnt on the 11th of May. At that time Michael Wallick went on top of the Court House and there for six hours amid fire falling thick as hail, blinding smoke and scorching flames he succeeded in saving the building. Shortly afterwards the Commissioners voted him \$15, as a compensation for the extreme danger he had encountered in saving the house.

3-16-76 F

Sermon Preached by Rev A. S. Milholland March  
1st, A.D. 1874

"Walk about Zion and go round about her tell  
the towers thereof. Mark ye well her bulwarks  
consider her palaces, that ye may tell it to the  
generation following." Psalms 48:12, 13.

As already announced we propose this morning  
to present a brief historical sketch of this, the  
Presbyterian Church of Millersburg from its or-  
ganization if it ever had an organization to  
the present time.

Early in the summer of 1825, now almost forty-  
nine years ago the Reverend John Stockton then  
a licentiate and a young man was sent to this  
place by what was then known as the Western Mis-  
sionary society. This missionary is now well and  
favorably known in our church as the Rev. Dr.  
John Stockton and is quite prominent as a minis-  
ter of the gospel in Western Pennsylvania.

Dr. Stockton was the first Presbyterian minis-  
ter that we have any knowledge of who preached  
regularly for any time in this place and he for  
about three or four months. There was no organi-  
zation of a Presbyterian Church here at this  
time Mr. Barton came to Millersburg while Mr.  
Stockton was here and remembers him quite well.

The following letter which I received from  
this now aged but not superanuated minister not  
quite three years ago will be of interest and of  
value in getting at the early history of our  
church.

Crosscreek Village, Pa.,  
June 6, 1871

Rev. A. S. Milholland,

Dear Sir:

Yours of the 30th ult has been received and  
in reply, I will give you some of my remini-  
sences of Millersburg. Under appointment of  
the Western Missionary Society I visited Mill-  
ersburg and was present at a celebration of the

4th of July 1825 Samuel Henry Esq. was the orator on the occasion and the table was spread in the woods in the public square I then made arrangements to return after the lapse of two weeks and preach for the people of Millersburg and Hopewell for some time. After visiting and preaching at Loudonville Mansfield Uniontown (now Ashland) and round north of Wooster to near Mapleton I returned to Millersburg and Hopewell and spent the summer in preaching in each church every alternate sabbath

Millersburg had no ecclesiastical organization Hopewell had had some sort of a congregational organization but they had disagreed in regard to the location of the meeting house and the association had been dissolved. At Millersburg I boarded in the house of Mr. McDowell and was very kindly entertained. My place of study in good weather was in a thicket of hazel bushes a few rods back of the Court House. The place of preaching was in the Court House and when it became too strait we preached in the public square before the Court House. At Hopewell we preached in a booth in the corner of Mr. Bell's meadow. My place of staying while out at Hopewell was at Mr. Bell's and Judge Finney's. At both Millersburg and Hopewell we had large congregations. At Hopewell three or four families attended from the neighborhood of Loudonville. At Millersburg we had a prayer meeting at first only Mr. Henry and Squire Monroe a Methodist would lead in prayer afterward we were greatly helped by the coming of Mr. Barton During the summer the Lord's Supper was administered by Rev. Thomas Barr of Wooster and Applecreek. There were several persons admitted to full membership. Things began to look encouraging. We obtained a location for the church at Hopewell in which all parties acquiesced and it was decided that application should be made to the Presbytery at the next meeting which was to be held in Mt. Vernon for the organiza-

tion of the church at Millersburg and Hopewell. I was chosen to represent the church at Millersburg and Judge Finney the congregation at Hopewell.

The Reverend Archibald Hannah, Pastor of the united congregation of Saltcreek and Paintsville, preached by appointment of Sabbath night at Millersburg and accompanied us to Mt. Vernon on Monday following. During the meeting at Mt. Vernon arrangements were made for the organization of these two churches and the election of Elders in the month of October, 1825. If I am not mistaken Mr. Barr was the minister appointed to perform this service. But the minutes of the Presbytery of Wooster meeting at Mt. Vernon in the autumn of 1825, will furnish the facts in the case. Before the organization was affected I left, intending to return after spending a year at Princeton, N.J. But ill health prevented me and I have never seen Millersburg or Hopewell since.

Before leaving I was permitted to see some blessed displays of divine grace, and now after the lapse of forty-five years (now more than forty-eight -- forty-nine next July since he came to this place.) I look back upon my sojourn at Millersburg and the regions around, with pleasure.

While at Millersburg I helped to roll the logs off the main street - helped to kill a rattle-snake five feet long, a few rods in front of the Court House - taught a woman to read the scriptures who was the mother of two or three children and had charge of a pretty large family - and visited many families and persuaded them not to hunt or fish or chop their wood on the Sabbath day but to attend on the preaching of the gospel. And now I know not that I shall ever see Millersburg again. If I should it will not be the Millersburg of 1825. Henry, Finney, Cary, Bell, and many others with whom I was want to meet with

would not be there. To Mr. Barton and any others who may have a remembrance of me, have the goodness to give my kindest regards. It will ever give me pleasure to hear of the temporal and spiritual prosperity of the congregation of Millersburg. It was the first place I was ever stationed for a season to preach the gospel. In 1827 I became the pastor of the Crosscreek Congregation and here I am still, enjoying a good measure of both health and strength. Thomas, my son is a physician in Crosscreek, is married and has a good practice. William is in Currituck County, N.C., is well and prospering. Thomas sends his best regards.

Now "The Lord bless thee and keep thee, the Lord make his face to shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee. The Lord lift his countenance upon thee and give thee peace." - Num. 6:25,27.

Along with this I send you a copy of my 40th anniversary sermon.

Yours truly,  
John Stockton

You will observe from this letter, that a committee was appointed by the Presbytery of Wooster, meeting at Mt. Vernon in 1825, to effect the organization of a church at this place. I have taken the pains to secure and examine those old Presbyterial records, to which Dr. Stockton refers, and turning to the minutes of that meeting of the Presbytery at Mt. Vernon, to which reference is made, I find the following record:

Mount Vernon, September 13th, 1825

Application was made from the inhabitants of Millersburg and the congregation of East Hopewell, requesting that said congregation be divided so that a new congregation be organized to be known by the name of Millersburg, in which the town of

Millersburg will be the centre and the bounds of East Hopewell be extended westward so that this place be nine miles or nearly that from Millersburg, which request was granted."

This you will observe is the meeting held at Mt. Vernon in the Autumn of 1825, which Dr. Stockton says he attended for the purpose of asking for the organization of a church in this place.

Again. In the minutes of their proceedings on the next day, Sept. 14, 1825, at the same meeting you will notice, we find this record: "Application was made from Millersburg congregation for supplies one Sabbath in each month until the next meeting of the Presbytery. Mr. Lee was appointed to supply the 1st Sabbath in November, at Millersburg. Mr. Scott the first Sabbath in December at the same place, and to organize the Church there. Mr. Cunningham the 1st of January at Millersburg and the second Sabbath at East Hopewell. Mr. Hannah the first Sabbath of March at Millersburg."

The next record is dated, Perrysville, April 11th, 1826, in which we find this minute, "On inquiring it appeared that the members had generally fulfilled their appointment of the last meeting. Mr. Scott attended at Millersburg and preached according to appointment and assigned reasons for not organizing the Church at that place, which were sustained. Mr. Cunningham assigned reasons for not fulfilling his appointment which were sustained."

The reason why Mr. Scott did not organize the church as directed by the Presbytery, was in the recollection of Mr. Barton, that there were objections made to the man whom the congregation proposed to elect as Elder, on account of a want of moral qualifications. Whatever the reasons were they seem to have been sustained by the Presbytery.

Two Elders being necessary to the organization of a church according to our form of government the church could not be organized at that time. The two, requisite, who were willing to serve, or who were morally qualified to serve could not be found. On further and careful examination of these Presbyterial records we find no report whatever of an organization of this church. Mr. Barton is rather of the opinion that there was never any formal organization of a church effected, and his opinion is substantiated by the fact that the records of the Presbytery do not show that there ever was. But, be this as it may we know that the Presbytery has, from the date of this meeting at Mt. Vernon in 1825, ever recognized it as a regularly organized church, under its care, and as such as continually exercised supervision over it. We notice in looking over the early records of the Presbytery, frequent references to the church at Millersburg mention is made of supplies sent to the church and of reports received from the church, and acted upon by the Presbytery. The organization I presume was virtually effected at some later date, by the congregation itself electing the requisite number of ruling Elders, and is today to all intents and purposes as much a church and as good a church as if the Presbytery had formally organized it.

The first Ruling Elders elected by the congregation were Samuel Tidball and John P. Kerr. We have no date anywhere of their election or ordination, but we find by the old sessional records that they were acting at a session as early as Aug 2nd 1830, so that their election or ordination occurred some time previous to that now almost 44 years ago. Mrs. Lovely Tidball and Mrs. Maria S. Koch, so far as we can ascertain, have been longer in the church than any who are now members, having united July 22. 1831. Rev. A. Hannah, Mod. John P. Kerr and Daniel Tidball.

## Elders.

The next Ruling Elders elected were Daniel Clany, Samuel Culbertson, James Knox, and Dr. Daniel Kelley. These were elected in 1833. The next election of Elders resulted in the choice of S. S. Henry, A. Barton, and Samuel Wilson. These were ordained Sep. 7, 1839 - now 34 years and a half ago. On December 19, 1845, John E. Koch and Joseph McColly were ordained Ruling Elders. On the 10th of January 1846 John Elliott was installed in the office of Elder, having served in this capacity previously at Coshocton. In the spring of 1856 Dr. Hervey Smith, John Duncan, and Moses Findley were elected elders. On the 12th of Nov. 1866 Stewart Brown, Robert Justice and James Phillips were elected Ruling Elders. Mr. Phillips declining to serve, Messrs. Brown, Findley, and Justice were on the 20th day of January, 1867, solemnly ordained to the office of Ruling Elder and in this capacity with Mr. Barton, who has held this office for more than 34 years they still continue to act. The whole number of Ruling Elders who have served the church since the first election is eighteen. About one-half of these have been called to their reward.

Of the ministers who have served the church, the Rev. John Stockton was, as we have seen, the first. He came as a missionary in 1825, gathered the people together and preached to them for a few months with a view to the organization of a church.

The Rev. N.M. Urmston, who was also sent by the Western Missionary Society and who was partly paid by them, was the next to preach the gospel for a time, as a Presbyterian minister in Millersburg. He came in 1826 and remained about fifteen months.

After the departure of Mr. Urmston the congregation was for a time without a minister, until 1829, when the Rev. Robert Young supplied the congregation for perhaps about two years. It was

about this time that the first Elders. Messrs. Tidball and Kerr were elected and the church was virtually if not formally organized. The church has now for the first, according to ecclesiastical law, the power to call a pastor; hence we find that in about the year 1832 a call was made out for the Rev. Joseph Wylie and on his acceptance of the call became the first pastor of this church; serving the church of Hopewell in the same capacity, where he continued to preach after his resignation of this part of his charge.

In the fall of 1836 or the spring of 1837 Rev. George Gordon accepted a call from this church and became its second pastor. Mr. Gordon remained for seven years as pastor here and at Hopewell.

About this time the people began to talk seriously about erecting a house of worship. Services had been held hitherto mainly in the Court House. Thus after worshiping God for sixteen years without a home the people resolved to rise up and build. Accordingly we find this record (we give the whole of it just as we find it and I suppose was written by the secretary): "A congregational meeting was held April 12, 1842. Mr. Thomas was called to the chair. Mr. B. Bower, secretary. On motion it was resolved that the congregation make an effort to build a meeting house. Resolved, 2d that the house be a frame fifty feet long by thirty-eight wide. Resolved that Messrs. John E. Koch, A. Barton, and B. Bower be a committee to raise a subscription and contract for building the house. Resolved that the paper require one-third on first June, one-third first November, and the remaining third first April, 1842."

The house is the one that was recently burned, and was completed in 1842. The expense of the building itself was about \$1500. The expense of a bell fence, etc., afterwards added made the cost of building thus completed about \$2000.

We find this record also concerning the rent-

ing of pews: "June 6th, 1842, a congregational meeting was held. Mr. Henry in the chair. Resolved, 1st. That the pews in the new meeting house be rented. 2d. That John E. Koch, A. Barton, and B. Bower, the Building Committee, be appointed a committee to assess a tax on the seats. A subscription was started to purchase lamps stoves, etc., payable on the 1st of October next." Mr. Gordon who was the pastor during the building of the church was the first to occupy the new pulpit. He continued as the Pastor for about two years after the church was finished when he removed to Ashland, O. Rev. Mr. Peck then supplied the church for a short time. The Presbytery refused to receive him because of some charges that were preferred against him, and the church could not therefore retain him.

Dr. Deifendorf accepted an invitation to supply the church in 1844 and remained as supply for about 18 months.

In the fall of 1845, S.M. Templeton became Pastor of the church, and remained for about two years. Mr. Templeton preached with great acceptance to large congregations. From October 2d 1847 Rev. A. Coffey supplied the church for six months. Mr. Coffey came expecting to remain but a short time, and at the invitation of his friends, removed to Peoria, Ill. to take charge of a church in that city.

In the fall of 1848 Rev. John M. Boggs accepted a call to this church and became its Pastor, giving one-third of his time to the church at Bloomfield. Mr. Boggs, whom many of you remember, was very highly esteemed and was a most excellent and faithful minister of the gospel. He was Pastor of the church for eight years, thus remaining longer in this relation than any other minister who has occupied this pulpit.

It was during the latter part of the ministration of Mr. Boggs that the Free church movement

arose, reducing the congregation in numerical strength about one third. Mr. Boggs discouraged this movement.

In 1858 Rev Robert Caruthers supplied the church for six months. Mr. Caruthers was also very much liked as a minister and was becoming eminently useful in the church, but through some misunderstanding, perhaps too hastily left.

From Nov. 1859 Rev J A E Simpson remained as Pastor for about three years

In the fall of 1863, M.L. Anderson became the Pastor and remained for about three years. He was succeeded by Rev Jas. A. Divine who remained but a few months as a supply. Thus has the congregation employed in these forty-nine years of its existence fifteen ministers including myself. Eight of these however were only supplies, remaining but a short time. Seven were Pastors regularly ordained and installed.

I made my first visit to Millersburg in the month of November 1866 and after making arrangements to return as a supply which I did in three or four weeks I preached my first sermon as supply for four months on the first Sabbath of Dec. 1866. After receiving a unanimous call and holding it for some months, uncertain as to whether it was my duty to accept it I was finally installed as Pastor of the church on the 11th day of Nov 1867 about one year after preaching my first sermon in the place. The conditions of the church at my coming did not seem to me very encouraging. It had something of the appearance of a forest after a whirlwind, many of the branches were broken, some of the oaks were fallen and some were swept entirely away. One sturdy old tree, however, the oldest of oaks, still bravely stood the storm preserving the existence and organization of the church. Soon, however, the spirit of God moved over the chaos, and the dark clouds were dispersed and the beams of the great sun of Righteousness shone propitiously on

us, restoring the church to more than its accustomed vigor and beauty, and we have the blessed satisfaction of believing that much fruit has been gathered since then from this storm-swept garden into the garner of God.

The membership of the church was, when I came, according to the roll, 65. There have been received into the church since I came, precisely one hundred members, thirty-five more than were in the church when I came. After deducting those who have gone away, and those who have been removed by death, we have left a membership now of just one hundred and twenty - almost double the number that were in the church at the time of my coming.

And since that time but one single communion season has passed at which we received no additions and we have several times received persons into the church at a time when no communion was held.

We have, in the time I have been here, given certificates of dismission to twenty-seven members removing to other parts. Seven have gone without certificates and eleven of our number have gone to their eternal home, and we trust are now in the church of the redeemed in heaven, where they shall go no more out forever. Thus in all forty-five have been stricken from our roll. Sixty-five when I came one hundred added since - making one hundred and sixty-five. Forty-five from this number leaves us one hundred and twenty which we have on the roll of the church membership now.

In 1844 the church reports 75 members. In 1859 the membership was 60 - a loss of fifteen in fifteen years. In 1866, the year I began my ministerial services here, the membership was 65 - a gain of five in seven years. In the past seven years the actual increase has been 55.

On the 21st day of March, 1872, the house which was finished in 1842 just thirty years

previous was destroyed by fire originating as was supposed from a defective flue Measures were adopted immediately for the erection of a new building which was completed (wanting only the spire the lumber for which however is already provided) at a cost (including heating apparatus carpet cushions furniture etc ) of eleven thousand five hundred and fifty dollars (\$11 550 ) Of this amount the ladies of the congregation raised and contributed fourteen hundred dollars and about the same amount was contributed by churches and friends from abroad This substantial beautiful and everyway pleasant and comfortable house was on the fifteenth day of February 1874 formally dedicated to the service of the Lord free of debt Thus has the church gradually grown and increased in strength vigor and beauty Surely the Lord has blessed us and made his face to shine upon us and has been gracious unto us And now may he continue to lift up his countenance upon us and give us peace We are in a better condition than ever before in the church's history to enjoy the services of the Sanctuary and to labor for the master in the winning of souls in the building of that spiritual Temple which hath foundation whose maker and builder is God O let us then consecrate ourselves anew with this house which we have given to the Lord and live for the glory and honor and praise of Him who hath redeemed us with his own precious blood so that when our labors upon earth shall have ended we may all be received as an unbroken congregation into the general assembly and church of the first born in heaven where we shall lift our voices together with the angels in an anthem of praise to Him that sitteth upon the throne and to the Lamb forever and forever amen

We have thought of thy loving kindness O God in the midst of thy temple.

3-5-74 F

Historical Sermon  
Hopewell and Nashville Churches  
Preached July 9, 1876  
E. B. Caldwell, Pastor

"The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad." - Psalm 126:3.

A more fitting celebration of the Centennial year could not have been suggested for the Great Presbyterian Church than that which has been recommended by our General Assembly viz:

1st. That the first Sabbath in July 1876 be designated as a day of Praise and Thanksgiving to God, for the manifold blessings with which he has crowned us, as a people.

2nd. That the Pastor of each church deliver a discourse on that day, on the history of his church and transmit a copy to the Presbyterian Historical Society for preservation.

3d. That a collection be taken up on that day for building a fire-proof edifice for the Presbyterian Historical.

In accordance with this recommendation I have prepared the following history of the Hopewell and Nashville Presbyterian Churches.

### HOPEWELL CHURCH

Hopewell is the oldest organized church now in existence in Holmes County. A Methodist was organized at a very early day in Drake's Valley but for many years that organization has been extinct. The history of the first few years of Hopewell Church is somewhat obscure from the fact that the Sessional records prior to 1830, if any such existed, have been lost and also from the fact that the records of the old Presbytery of Richland (which originally embraced all this region) make no mention of the organization of this church.

There is an account in the records of Presbytery of the organization of a Hopewell church in Nov 1818 by Rev Mr Mathews: but in following the record we find that to have been a church in the western part of the Presbytery and which has long since been disbanded

The first distinct and unequivocal notice of the Hopewell in which we are interested is in the record in the meeting of Presbytery at Mansfield April 1823 as follows: At the request of the people of Hopewell on the waters of Paint that congregation is to be designated hereafter by the name of East Hopewell. And further on in the same record At the request of East Hopewell Rev. Jos Harper was appointed their stated supply the one half of his time until the next meeting of Presbytery (The other half of his time was employed at Perrysville.)

This language very clearly implies that at some time previous to this meeting a church by the name of Hopewell had been organized on the waters of Paint but there being another church of the same name in the Western part of the Presbytery it was found expedient at this time to change the name to East Hopewell.

In the absence of any record of such organization the facts of the case must be ascertained as nearly as possible from the recollection of individuals who were in this community at that early day.

Mrs Mary Laylander who with her husband came to this neighborhood in 1819 remembers that there was occasional preaching in the scattered cabins of the neighborhood in 1820-1821 by some of the ministers of the Presbytery (Archibald Hanna Thos Barr and others.)

#### The First Communion

was led by Rev. Joseph Harper in Leedom's barn (now Steimbring's) in the Fall of 1821.

According to the records of Presbytery, Mr. Hanna and Mr. Barr both came to this Presbytery in the spring of 1820, and Mr. Harper in October, 1819. Mr. Harper was ordained in August, 1820, and supplied the churches of Coshocton, Millcreek, and Dowdy's Fork till April, 1821. From this time, there is no notice of his whereabouts until April, 1823, when he became stated supply of East Hopewell. He probably itinerated as a Missionary; and, without any particular instruction of Presbytery, gathered together the scattered sheep of this fold and held a communion; as Mrs. Laylander recollects. Mrs. Laylander does not remember of any election of Elders or organization of the church at that time.

Mrs. Mary Ann Johnston (came in June, 1822), remembers that Mr. Harper was preaching during the Summer and Autumn of that year at the different cabins in the neighborhood - Finney's, Lockhart's, Jordan's, etc., and that he purchased a small farm adjoining this place. In the summer of 1823 Mr. Harper held a communion in his own log house (near where Mr. E. Smith now lives). On Saturday preceding this communion, a congregational meeting was held and three Elders were elected and ordained, viz: David T. Finney Sr., Adam Croco, and Joseph Gordon. She remembers that she was not at that meeting on Saturday but Mr. Johnston was and saw the Elders ordained. She thinks there were only about seven members in the church at that time. This would seem to be the organization of the church. But this communion occurred after the meeting of Presbytery first referred to - April 8, 1823, and it is there implied that the church had already been organized. Therefore we must look still further back for the lost record. We seem to have the solution of the difficulty in the recollection of Mrs. Cynthia Moreland. She came with her folks (Jordans) to this county just sixty years ago - in 1816. They lived for one year on the east side of the Killbuck; then moved over to the farm

now occupied by Mr. Reese Lewis

About a year after this - in the winter of 1818-19 Rev Robert Lee from Westmoreland County Pennsylvania came out through this section under appointment of the Western Missionary Society to gather up and organize Presbyterian churches Mr Jordan's having come from the congregation of Mr Lee in Pennsylvania he stopped with them in this Missionary tour and told them that if they could gather in the neighbors he would preach to them and organize a church The settlement was very sparse at that time the nearest neighbors to Jordans being Leedoms Garrells Lockharts Euchmans and Finneys But the word was circulated and on the Sabbath quite a congregation assembled at the house of Mr. David Jordan

Mr Lee preached and organized a church This is not to be regarded as a regular ecclesiastical organization there being no authority of Presbytery and as Mrs M remembers no Elders were elected at that time But it was sort of a missionary organization of the members of a church and which we have seen grew into a regular organization a few years afterwards. It was a great encouragement to those early settlers who had the privileges of the church behind them It served as a rallying centre and we find that they had occasional supplies after that time and communion about once a year That this is to be regarded as to all interests the original organization though incomplete of this church is also evident from the fact that Mr Lee gave to this church at that time its name Hopewell and that Mr Joseph Gordon (who afterwards became one of the first Elders of the church) donated or proposed to donate an acre of ground for a church building and Mr David Jordan an acre for a graveyard In proof of this three persons were soon buried in that graveyard Mrs Gordon (wife of Joseph) Mr C Moreland's mother and a child of Mr Leedom's

This also accounts for the fact that there were two Hopewells, so near together, and in the same Presbytery.

The Presbytery in Nov. 1818 organized a Hopewell church, in the western part of its bounds. A few months after a stranger, Mr. Lee, under appointment of the Western Missionary Society, of Pa., comes out and organizes this church and calls it Hopewell, knowing nothing, doubtless of the existence of the other church.

It soon becomes necessary to distinguish the two, and so we find that in 1823 Presbytery changes the name of this church to East Hopewell.

Mrs. M. also states that there was no preaching in all this section during the first two years after they came out until Mr. Lee came and organized the church; and after this there were occasional supplies (Mr. Hanna, Mr. Barr, and others) for several years.

She also remembers being at the communion held by Mr. Harper in Leedom's barn, and at the communion across the Paint in Mr. Harper's log cabin (afterwards used for a schoolhouse); and she thinks that the first Elders were elected there. She also says that there was no preaching in this part of the country by any other denomination, during these early years.

This then seems to be the complete account of the Organization of Hopewell and gives it the direction of being the oldest church now in existence in Holmes Co., and one of the oldest Presbyterian churches in Wooster Presbytery.

Originally organized (informally) by Rev. R. Lee, in winter of 1818-19 and called Hopewell. Communion held by Mr. Hopewell in Leedom's barn, in Fall of 1821.

The organization completed in Summer of 1823 by the election of three ruling Elders at a communion held by Mr. Harper at his own house; the name having been changed by Presbytery, in April preceding, from Hopewell, to East Hopewell.

which name it has continued to bear ever since until April 30 1874 which it was changed back again to Hopewell having ceased to exist years ago

The only unsatisfactory feature in this history is the fact that there is no recognition in the records of Presbytery of the organization of East Hopewell

But if the account as here given is correct this omission may be explained in this way. The Presbytery itself was organized in 1817

In 1818 Presbytery organizes a Hopewell church in the western bounds. Soon after without any action of its own it finds a congregation on Paint calling itself Hopewell. But having no regular supplies for several years the attention of Presbytery is not called to them particularly until 1823 when according to their record their name is changed to East Hopewell and Mr. Harper appointed their stated supply. Mr. Harper finds their organization incomplete in having no Elders and at their first communion the organization is completed by the election of three Elders. East Hopewell is thereafter recognized by Presbytery in its records as a regularly organized church.

Rev Jos Harper continued to supply East Hopewell and Perrysville until Sept 1824 when he was dismissed to Redstone Presbytery in Western Penn. At a meeting of Presbytery Sept 14 1824 supplies were appointed for East Hopewell. Messrs. Hanna Barr and Mathews.

In the summer of 1825 Mr. John Stockton a young man sent out by the Western Missionary Society came to Millersburg preached at that point and at Hopewell for three or four months. Mr Stockton is still living (or was not long since) now a venerable D.D. and has been Pastor of the Crosscreek Village Church Washington Co Pa since 1827 a period of nearly fifty years. In a letter to Rev A S Milholland s (published

two years ago in the history of the Presbyterian Church of Millersburg) Dr. Stockton says:

"At Hopewell, I preached in a booth in the corner of Mr. Bell's meadow. Three or four families attended from the neighborhood of Loudonville. At both Millersburg and Hopewell, we had large congregations. My place of staying while out at Hopewell was at Mr. Bell's and Judge Finney's. I left in the Autumn of 1825 expecting to return, after spending a year at Princeton, N.J. But ill health prevented me, and I have never seen Millersburg and Hopewell since. It was the first place I was ever stationed for a season to preach the gospel; and now after a lapse of forty-five years (his letter was dated June 6th, 1871: It is now fifty years since he came here first) I look back upon my sojourn at Millersburg and the regions around, with pleasure."<sup>99</sup>

At a meeting of Presbytery at Mt. Vernon, Sept. 13th, 1825 the following record is made:

"Application was made from the inhabitants of Millersburg and the congregation of East Hopewell, requesting that said congregation be divided so that a new congregation be organized to be known by the name of Millersburg, in which the town of Millersburg will be the centre and that their place of worship be nine miles or nearly that, from Millersburg, which request was granted."<sup>100</sup>

Heretofore the nearest points of preaching to Hopewell, had been Wooster on the north, Applecreek on the east, Coshocton County on the south, and Perrysville on the West. The united congregations of East Hopewell and Perrysville covering a territory about 35 miles long and 15. to 20 wide - an extensive pastoral charge.

Hereafter Hopewell and Millersburg were grouped together as a charge until 1845.

After Mr. Stockton left, the church was again without a stated supply for perhaps a year, when Mr. Nathaniel M. Urmston, also a young man sent

out by the Western Missionary Society preached for some months here and at Millersburg commencing his labors in the autumn of 1826.

In the spring of 1828 a call was made by East Hopewell for one-half of Mr. Urmston's time.

This was the occasion of the first meeting of Presbytery ever held in the place. Sept 9, 1828. Presbytery met at the house of Samuel Bell for the purpose of ordaining and installing Mr. Urmston.

At that meeting there was two ministers present and six elders: two ministers being absent. For some reason Mr. Urmston declined the call but was ordained as an Evangelist. Mr. Urmston is still living an Honorable Retired minister of the gospel in the Presbytery of Cincinnati.

Thus the young church was doomed to disappointment in it's first love, and was again thrown upon the Charity of Presbytery for supplies until the spring of 1830 when Robert Young became its first Pastor.

The oldest sessional records now in the possession of the church date back to the beginning of his ministry here. They begin with this sentence - in the handwriting of David I. Finney Sr. who for several years was clerk of the session.

"State of the church when Rev. Robert Young became Pastor; - Total in Communion, 31."

Then follow the names of those who were added from time to time.

At this point which may be regarded as the era of the church becoming self sustaining let us pause for a moment and look back over the history of the ten or twelve years proceeding. East Hopewell was during these first years of its existence a Home Mission Church. Organized and fostered by the representations of the Western Missionary Society - the Home Mission Society at the time of the Presbyterian church.

The history of this church, and of the

churches throughout Ohio, is a most suggestive chapter on Home Missions; illustrating the indispensable value of that Board of our church. This cause ought ever to be dear to all our hearts.

The coming of Mr. Young marked an era in the history of the church. His ministry of two years was greatly blessed. Sixty-one persons were added to the church; - 47 by examination, 14 by certificate. Thus the membership was nearly trebled in two years.

The soil which had been prepared by the self denying labors of our Home Missionaries now began to bear the richest spiritual harvest of the Lord's planting.

It was during this time that the first church edifice was built; in 1830 or 31. It was a small, plain, frame building, on the site of the present church building. The ground for this purpose and for the graveyard was donated by Samuel Bell and John Polson, the deed of which bears date "21st March, 1831" "Trustees, Ebenezer Bigham, Robert Johnston, and Hugh Robinson."

Previous to this time for a few years, the congregation had worshiped in the winter at the house of Samuel Bell, and in the summer in a tent or shed, erected nearby, in the grove.

There had been some dispute before this among the different parts of the congregation as to the site of the church building, but this had been amicably settled by the selection of the present beautiful location.

This first church was furnished without many of the modern conveniences and luxuries. There was no carpet to deaden the footsteps of late comers, (perhaps they never came late in those days). No organ or choir but a percentutor or clark, as he was generally called, who occupied a prominent position just under the pulpit. And there were no seats even, except as each family furnished its own pew. But there was a pulpit; a great deal of pulpit, so much that the chorester

could stand under it and yet occupy a prominent position. And yet in that old church and from that high pulpit sounded forth the word of the Lord and many souls were born into the Kingdom

Shortly after Mr Young left Mr Dunlop an old Scotchman and a very peculiar man took charge of the church for a few months. Some amusing anecdotes are yet in circulation in the Community about his quaint notions and habits.

In the spring of 1883 Rev Joseph E Wylie became the second Pastor of East Hopewell and Millersburg. He remained two years. During his ministry also, the church was greatly strengthened there being 70 additions - 56 by profession of faith and 14 by certificate. Four Elders were elected June 2d 1834 viz Washington Finney, William Robison, William Heard and Ebenezer Bigham.

The church was again vacant for about a year during which time Rev Wm Warner held a communion 2 added by examination 3 by certificate

In the Summer of 1826 Rev George Gordon became Pastor remaining several years. During his pastorate 105 persons made a public profession for the first time and 36 were received by letter.

During the vacancy of two years that followed Rev Messrs Peck Whiteman and Wylie held communions Additions 5 by examination and 4 by letter

The next Pastor was Rev Sanders Diefendorf who remained from 1844 to 1849 about four years and a half During his ministry 10 were added by examination and 12 by letter

In the Spring of 1845 a colony of 64 members withdrew forming the church of Nashville Mr Diefendorf was installed Pastor of the new church and from that time to the present Hopewell and Nashville have constituted a pastoral charge

The churches of Holmesville and Shreve have

also been formed in part, by colonies from the mother church of Hopewell.

This is illustrated by the same law of development and growth in the church as in the plant; as the extremities are taken off and form new plants the central stalk becomes vigorous and fruitful.

It was during the pastorate of Mr. Diefendorf that the first church building was formed (1846) and the building, which we now occupy, was erected (1847-8). The Elders were elected April 30, 1848 Jacob Layenberger, Robert McClure, and John McGlaughlin. The church was again vacant about 2 years, during a part of which time Rev. W.C. Mason acted as stated supply - added 9 by examination, 13 by certificate - total 22.

The largest pastorate in the history of this church was that of Rev. M.W. Brown, 1851-1863 - twelve years. During this pastorate 117 were added by examination and 40 by certificate - total 157.

About the beginning of Mr. Brown's ministry, the Free church movement was agitated, and a Free church organized in Paint Valley (about a mile south of Hopewell) to which a number of families of this congregation attached themselves.

During the pastorate of Mr. Brown six Elders were elected, viz: Aug. 14, 1852, James Armstrong and Robert Armstrong; June 21, 1861, Joseph Burkholder and John Todd; May 11, 1862, Isaac Dickson and Thos. Rogers.

By the continued ill health of the Pastor, the church was without the stated means of Grace from 1863 to 1866. During these three years of vacancy only three persons were added to the church.

In the spring of 1866, Mr. J.F. Holcomb, a licentiate of Allegheny Presbytery, became stated supply for six months; and was ordained and installed pastor in October following.

Mr. Holcomb remained in charge of the church two years, when he removed to Athens, Ohio, where

he also remained about two years, and then went as a missionary to India, in which field he continued to serve the Master.

Mr. Holcomb's work during his ministry here was principally one of reconstruction.

By the political agitations which swept over the country during those dark years of civil war, this church, like many others, had been rent almost to fragments. But the Lord had yet a work for his people to do in this community; and at the bidding of the Master, the troubled waters again gradually became still.

Two Elders were elected during these two years, viz: Uriah Robison, in March, 1867, and R.R. Post in October, 1867. Twenty-three members were added to the church by examination, and fourteen by certificate.

In May, 1868, the present pastor, E.B. Caldwell, (then a licentiate of Redstone Presbytery), took charge of the church as stated supply. On June 8th, 1869, he was ordained and installed as Pastor. Five Elders have been elected since that time, March 27, 1870; Chas. Boles, J.W. Culbertson, A.A. Garrett, April 16, 1876, Garrett Burns, and Samuel Murray. One hundred and twenty-two persons have been added to the membership, 82 by examination, and 40 by certificate.

#### Recapitulation.

The church of Hopewell has a history of nearly fifty-eight years. It has had seven pastors, six stated supplies and twenty-three ruling Elders.

Since 1830, 445 persons have publicly acknowledged their Saviour in this church; 190 have been added by letter; making in all, including the 31 then members, a total membership of 666.

Of the pastors, the last four are yet living, Rev. S. Diedendorf has lately been called again to the Principalship of Vermilion Institute; Rev. M.W. Brown is pastor of the church of Mt. Eaton (Wooster Presbytery); Rev. J.F. Holcomb, Mission-

ary to India. The first three pastors have been called home to their reward.

Of the twenty three Elders, fourteen, possibly fifteen are yet living.

Of the original session, Joseph Gordon removed to the West in 1837 and Adam Croco in 1844. Mr Croco was still living a year or two ago. David T. Finney Sr., was transferred to the new organization of Nashville in 1845, withdrew in 1851 and united with the Free church, died Nov. 22 1862 in the ninetieth year of his age.

At the time of his election as Elder he was not yet a member of the church but he had declared his intention of becoming a member, and such was the estimation in which held a Ruling Elder before he had ever communed, and his first approach to the Lord's table was in that capacity (Biographical notice.)

Of the four elected in 1834, Ebenezer Bigham ceased to act in 1848, withdrew to the Free church, afterwards to the United Presbyterian church of Millersburg, and died October 16, 1872. Washington Finney was transferred to Nashville, 1845, also withdrew to the Free church, died in January, 1875. William Heard continued an Elder in Hopewell until his death, February 1868, a period of nearly thirty-four years.

Wm Robison ceased to act in 1848, died November 4, 1867. Of the three elected April, 1852. Robert McClure died March 16, 1852. Jacob Laylander ceased to act in 1862, removed to Iowa a few years afterwards. John McGlaughlin ceased to act in 1861, united with the Lutheran church, returned to Hopewell in February 1871, died September 24, 1872.

James and Robert Armstrong elected in August 1852, removed to the West about ten years afterwards. Joseph Burkholder and John Todd, elected June 1861, ceased to act in 1863. The former is now in Fort Wayne, Indiana, the latter of the M.E. Church of Moreheads.

Isaac Dickson and Thomas Rogers elected in 1862 removed to the West two or three years afterwards

The remaining seven continue in active service and constitute the present session.

The Sabbath School of Hopewell is one of the oldest Sabbath Schools in the country. It is stated by some of the oldest members yet living that Mr. Harper taught a Bible class as early as 1823 or 4. A few years after that a more definite organized form was given to Bible study during the Ministry of Rev. Messrs. Urmston and Young and from that time the Sabbath School has ever been regarded as an essential part of the organism of Hopewell Church.

In 1866 or 7 the first Sunday School book "the Sabbath Bell" was introduced by Rev. J F Holcomb. During all these years, however, the Sunday School went into Winter quarters, during about one half of the year. About five years ago, children and teachers together resolved to brave the Winter Storms and from that time the Sunday School has had uninterrupted sessions during the entire year.

### NASHVILLE CHURCH

Nashville Church was organized in the Spring of 1845 with 64 members, most if not all, of whom were transferred from Hopewell (Nine only of these now remain in this church.)

The following Elders were elected and installed - David T Finney Sr. Washington Finney and Samuel McGuire. Rev S. Diedendorf was installed as Pastor in the August following. During his pastorate twenty persons were received into the church.

During the Pastorate of Rev M W Brown, five Elders were elected Aug. 15. 1851. Thompson W Hudson and S Thompson. In 1856 M Campbell and William M Mullin 104 members were added, 63 by

examination, 41 by letter. During the first nine years the congregation worshipped in a small log church belonging to the Lutherans. In 1854 the present church edifice was built.

From 1863 to 1866 the church was supplied in part by Rev. J.A. Layenberger, now a missionary in China. During this time ten members were added. Under Mr. Holcomb's ministry, eight persons were received into the church.

During the present Pastorate, 77 have been received by examination, and twenty by letter. Three elections have been held for Elders. Jan. 14, 1870 A. Laylander and J.T. Elder were elected, Mar. 22d, 1873, R.A. Garret and R.R. Thompson were elected to serve for three years.

April 6th, 1876, the congregation adopted the "Limited term service of Eldership," which action necessarily terminated the service of all the Session. Three classes were then elected as follows: to serve six years - R.A. Garrett and R.R. Thompson; to serve four years - J.T. Elder and A. Laylander; to serve two years - James Campbell and J. Tschantz and the Standing Rule adopted to elect two Elders every two years to serve for a term of six years. In May, 1871, the church of Black Creek was organized with twelve members transferred from this church.

Thus the church of Nashville has had a history of 31 years. Four Pastors have served the church. It has had 14 ruling Elders in its service: all of whom are yet living except the three who constituted the original Session.

During these 31 years 169 persons have been added to the church by profession of faith, and 70 by letter, which with the original 64, makes the whole number 303.

In both churches; during the entire history 614 have made a public profession of religion, and 260 others have been added by certificate making a total of 905 (including the 31 members of Hopewell in 1830).

From this it is seen that the growth of these churches have been principally by the cultivation of the soil at home, rather than by accessions from abroad.

During the past eight years there have been added to both churches, by examination, 159; by certificate, 60; total, 219. There have been dismissed 90; 33 have left without certificates, some of whom an only temporary absence; and 22 have died; making a total decrease of 145; leaving a gain of 74 members.

Eight years ago the membership of Nashville was 67; it is now 98. Hopewell had 97 members, it now has 140, total in both churches 238.

#### Benevolent Work

I have had access to statistics since 1858. From 1858 to 1866 (nine years) the two churches contributed to the Boards, \$292; to congregational and miscellaneous \$3479. In 1867 and 1868 (two years) to the Boards \$471; total 2337; 1868-1876 (8 years) to Boards alone Hopewell \$2187, Nashville \$1584, both \$3771; to Miscellaneous charities, education, etc., Hopewell \$1299; Nashville \$1877; both \$3176; to congregational and repairs, Hopewell \$5093; Nashville, \$4371, - both \$9464. Making a total for 8 years past, of \$16,411 and for 19 years past, \$23,008. For the past eight years not one object of the General Assemblies Benevolent Work has once been omitted. Different plans have been adopted: Subscription, the Envelop system; and finally the method now in use; - the apostolic method, of "laying by on the first day of the week as the Lord hath prospered."

In the review of the history of these churches, we may well adopt the language of the text, "The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad." Surely God hath given unto us a "goodly heritage."

While we have attempted to learn the history

of these churches, we must remember that the real history of the church is unwritten. It is to be found in the lives and characters of those who have been witnesses for Christ. Of the 905 members of these churches, more than one-half have been called to their reward. Let us who remain, follow in the footsteps of the faithful. Let us prove ourselves worthy of the trust committed to our hands.

8-17-76 F

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH** - This church edifice is now ready for the slate roofing and it will be pushed to completion at as early a day as possible. It is a model of symmetrical architecture, for which considering cost, an equal can rarely be found. It was designed by Capt. Walter Blythe of Cleveland, and bespeaks the Captain's architectural skill. The estimated cost is \$10,000, which is far in excess of the amount subscribed for its erection; but the congregation will, in some way, raise the necessary fund at an early day to relieve it from debt. There is nearly \$1000 in the hands of the mite society, that is designed to furnish the building.

7-31-73 F

On Thursday evening last (3-21-72), the Presbyterian Church caught fire from a defective flue and was soon enveloped in flames which defied all efforts to subdue them. A strong wind prevailed at the time and it was with the utmost difficulty surrounding buildings were saved. The Church was a wooden structure and had stood for thirty years. No insurance. Arrangements are already being made for the erection of a handsome brick church upon its ruins.

3-28-72 F

**Dedication of M.E. Church, Sept. 28, 1873.**

The new M.E. Church in this place was formally dedicated on Sunday last by Rev. T.T. Hildreth of Ionia, Mich., assisted by Rev. W.H. Painter of Orrville, Rev. S. Lynch of Mt. Vernon and the former and present pastor of the church.

The building is pleasantly situated on Washington Street is of brick, with basement, and audience room on the second floor. It is 40 feet wide by 72 feet in length, exclusive of the tower, which rises from the N.E. corner. The basement story contains a lecture room, four class rooms, kitchen, store rooms, etc., and is

finished in comfortable style. It is carpeted throughout and seated with chairs and settees.

The audience room is 26 feet from floor to ceiling, is neatly frescoed; lighted by stained windows, with seats of second growth chestnut, trimmed with black walnut, and cushioned with green terra.

The altar, pulpit, table and chairs are of black walnut, the latter upholstered to match the seat cushions. Twenty-one lamps in clusters of three and six furnish light for evening services. The entire room is covered with super ingrain carpet. The carpets, cushions, furniture and lamps were purchased by the ladies of the church at a cost of about \$1000 which, added to the cost of other furnishings and the building made the total amount not far from \$12,500.

The building is fitted up in modern style throughout, and is an honor both to the society who erected it and the town. On the day of dedication a subscription of \$2500 was asked for and was responded to in something over \$3000 which is sufficient to liquidate all present indebtedness and farther improve the building.

10-2-73 F

#### New Presbyterian Church

At 1 o'clock on Friday last the Trustees and a number of the supporters of the Presbyterian church met at the office of D.S. Uhl, Esq., to take the initiatory step towards building a new church edifice in the place of the old one just destroyed by fire. The meeting was organized by calling D.S. Uhl, Esq., to the chair and appointing T.B. Cunningham and Judge Estill as Secretaries. The chair stated the object of the meeting to be the erection of a new church, and to find out just what kind of a building was wanted, and the best manner of getting it. It was agreed by motion that immediate steps be taken to erect a

new house, and that this house be of brick. It was then thought best that a committee be appointed to make an estimate of the probable cost. A committee of six was appointed, consisting of Robert Long, Judge Peed, J.E. Koch, sr., Rev. A. S. Milholland, J.P. Larimer and Robert Justice. This committee was to report the following Wednesday evening.

After exchanging views as to the best way of proceeding to work and the kind of church needed the meeting adjourned.

3-31-72 F

### Church Meeting

At an adjourned meeting of the Presbyterian Congregation held at the Court House, March 30th, R. Justice, A.S. Milholland, and D.S. Uhl were appointed a committee to obtain subscriptions to build a new church. Robert Long was appointed Treasurer. J.A. Estill, A.S. Milholland and A.B. Frey were appointed to procure designs for a church.

All feeling an interest should be at the next meeting at the Court House on April 8th at 2 o'clock P.M., as the design and cost of the new church will be determined at that time.

4-4-72 F

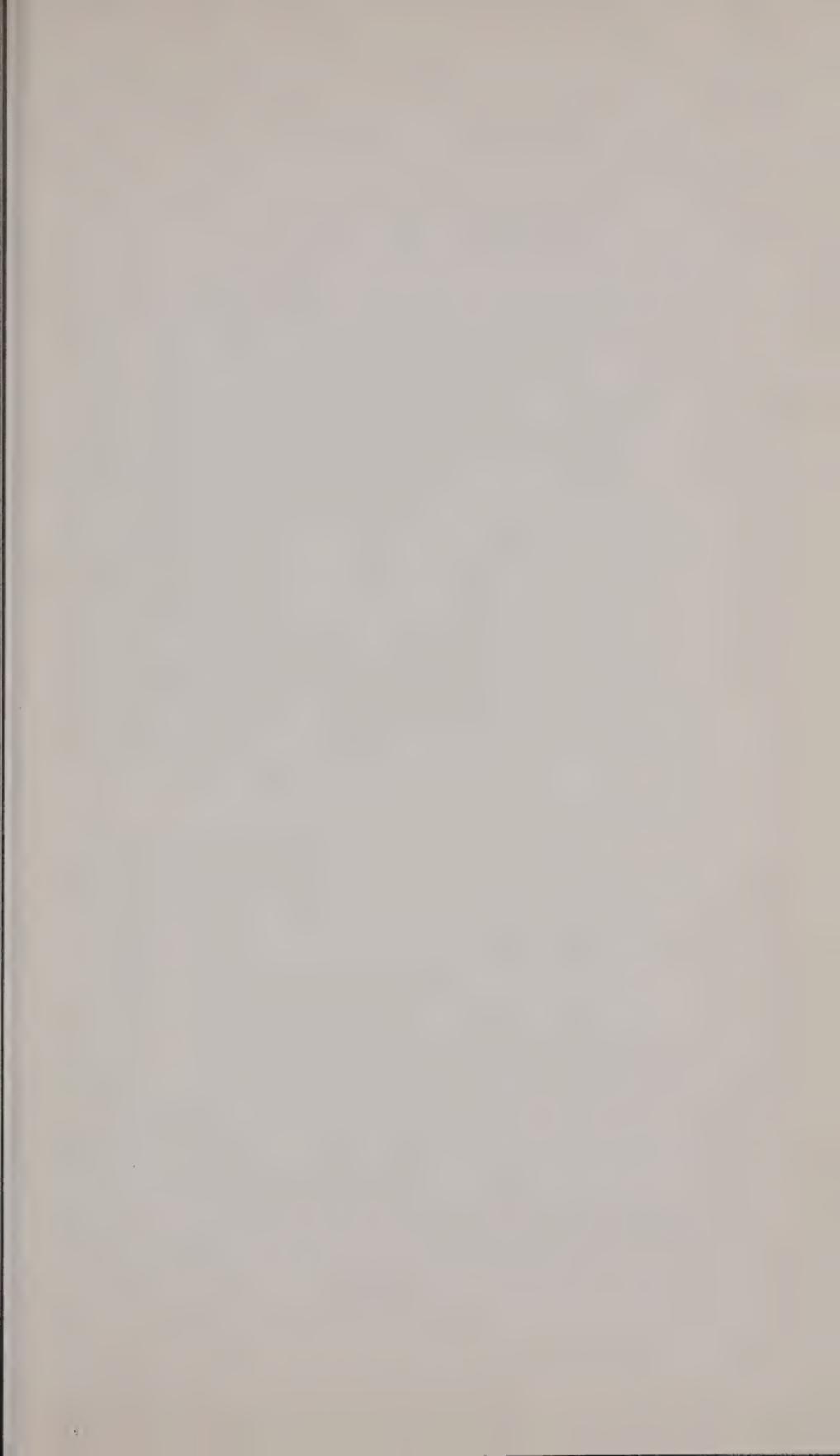
Church Dedication - The dedication of the new Presbyterian Church of Millersburg, will take place on Feb. 15, 1874. Services commencing at 11 o'clock A.M., Rev. A.A.E. Taylor, D.D., President of Wooster University, will preach the dedicatory sermon. Rev. George P. Hays, President of Washington and Jefferson College, Pa., will also be present and will preach in the evening. Dr Hays will deliver a lecture in the church on Monday evening, Feb. 16. Subject: "Every Day Reasoning". Dr Hays' well known ability and popularity as a lecturer will insure him a large audience

2-5-74 F

Church Dedication - The dedication of the Presbyterian Church on Sunday was largely attended by our citizens. The contributions toward completing the church edifice amounted to \$4,100. The former subscriptions aggregated about \$7,000, some \$1,200 of which was given by individuals and churches abroad. Thus the total fund raised for the building of the church amounts to about \$11,100. The cost of the building, and furnishing, as far as gone, amounts to \$11,600.

The congregation tender their grateful thanks to the citizens of Millersburg and vicinity, and also the distant churches and individuals who have contributed so liberally toward the erection of this elegant church edifice. The ladies, foremost in nearly every good work, are deserving of great praise for their untiring energy and industry which so largely contributed to the raising of the necessary funds for the building of the church.

2-19-74 F





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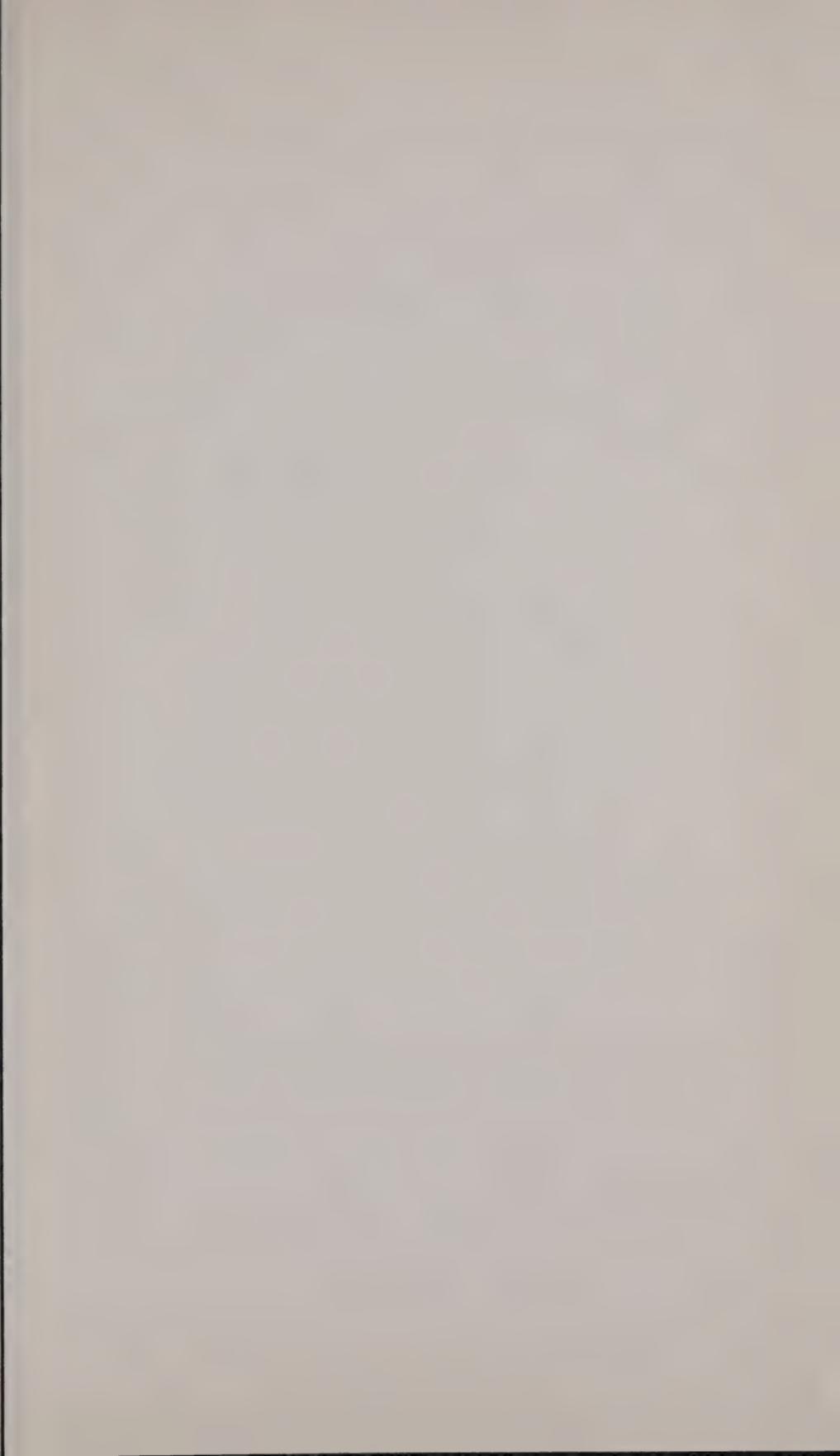
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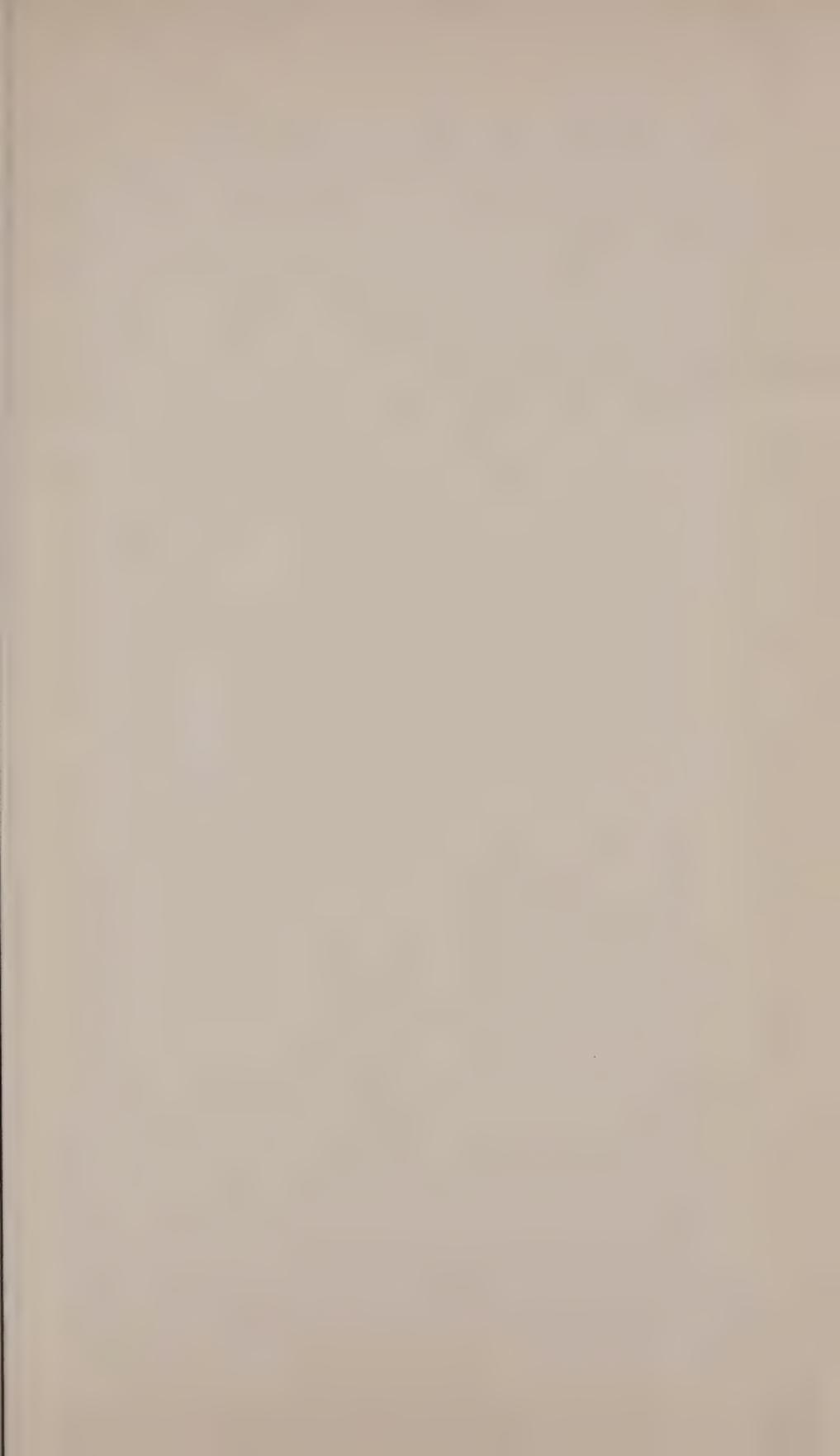
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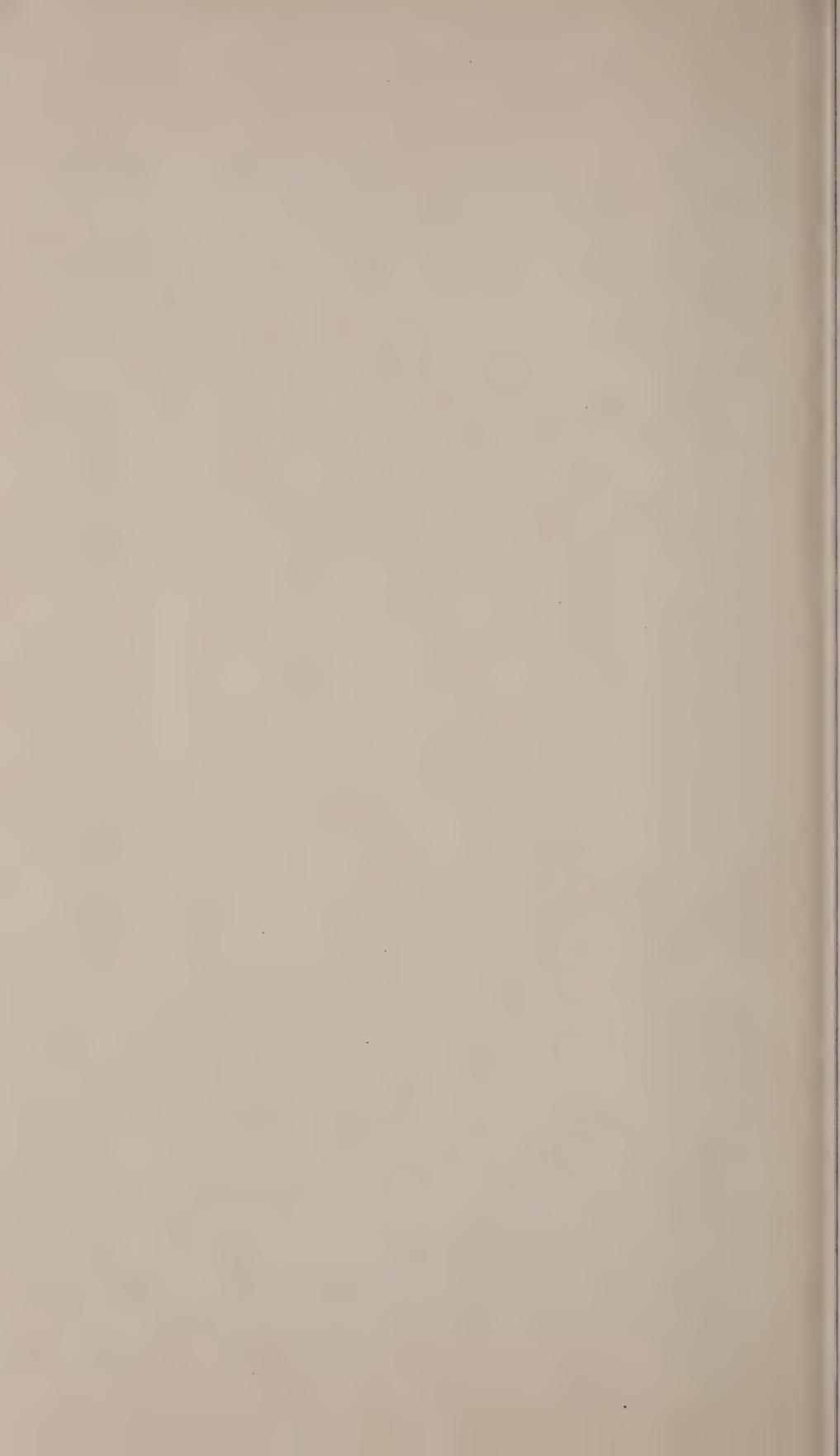
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